

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield

Parish Council

Village Matters

Issue 6

April 2013

Bus and Recreation Shelters

The new Bus and Recreational Shelters which were purchased with grant money have been delivered and are waiting to be put up in Stanningfield. We are waiting for the better weather and will probably do this in late April /early May. Those of you who attended the open Parish meeting last November have already seen pictures of the two new shelters, these pictures are now on the Parish website under news and events. If you do not have access to the Internet any member of the PC will be happy to show you pictures.

The major reasons for raising the money and buying these shelters was to overcome a number of situations which had developed:

1. We were getting complaints because the shelter was being used to kick footballs at
2. There was no dedicated place for the younger members of the village to gather

Also, the current bus shelter was in need of repair with an estimated cost in excess of £1,500, which would still not have overcome the issues with flooding.

Once we have completed the work of erecting the new shelters we would ask for everybody's support in using the Goal Posts provided on the Green for kicking footballs at, the Recreational Shelter as a gathering point and the Bus Shelter for waiting for a bus.

Barry Colson has won the contract to put the new concrete slabs down for both shelters, the rest of the work will be carried out by volunteers. Thanks to those of you who have already offered to help.

The Village Hall

Sixty new "padded" chairs which were also purchased from the grant money have now been delivered to the Village Hall. The older red plastic chairs will be retained for use at outside functions.

Parishioners at Bradfield Combust are reminded that the Village Hall is for the use by all in the Parish.

Litter Clean-Up Morning Stanningfield

Parishioners have asked for a litter clean up morning to be arranged on Sunday 28th April meeting outside the Red House at 10am. We are organising bags and pickup sticks. Again we need your help.

Village Fun Day

There was a great turnout for the Parish Fun day last June, held to celebrate the Queens Jubilee year. We are considering another event for this summer and would like your ideas on what you think should be included.

The theme last year was around bring a plate of food to share with lots of activities for the youngsters, (see the pictures in the gallery section of the Parish Website). This seems a good starting point from which to expand.

How about a five a side football match, more games for the youngsters, or a cricket challenge between Bradfield and Stanningfield? What do you think? Please contact anyone from the PC if you would like to be part of helping with or have ideas you think would be fun.

Dog Mess

In the first issue of "Village Matters" back in November 2011 one of the subjects and certainly the single biggest complaint made to members of the Parish Council was regarding "Dog Mess" and what we are doing about it.

This issue seemed to improve for a while following that newsletter and the posters we put up around the village, we also placed a new bin at the Village Hall but now once again the complaints are coming in. It should also be noted that most of the complaints come from dog owners themselves who of course walk the same routes as those who just allow their dogs to leave mess wherever it happens.

To those of you who ask what we are doing about it we confirm that we will update the posters around the village to remind people to be considerate to others and try and make all aware that they must use the bins provided. Of course the real answer has not changed: everyone should bag it and take it to a bin.

There are legal measures available to Parishes but we guess those enforcing the measures would very quickly become as unpopular as the mess itself!! But for your information the legal situation is detailed below.

Legal measures to prevent dog mess are contained in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, which repeals Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This allows local councils and communities to create byelaws relating to dog mess. Councils can also issue dog control orders against individual dog owners for offences including allowing a dog to foul a public space.

- Councils can issue fixed penalty orders in relation to dog control orders. Where there is no local rate, the fixed penalty is £75.
- In very serious cases, magistrates can issue a maximum penalty of £1,000 and impound dogs.

Dog Snatching

The details around dog snatching are quite sketchy but there are a number of instances of dogs being taken for use in dog baiting, which is horrible. Advice to dog owners is to be

vigilant particularly when letting dogs run free. It is also wise to be alert to strange vehicles and people in the village.

Luminous Painted sticks

On a similar subject and again a little bit sketchy it would seem there have been a number of instances of sticks with luminous paint being left in hedges close to oil tanks as a marker for those returning to steal oil. So be aware of any such markers and also of anyone or any vehicles acting unusually.

The Emergency Plan for this Parish

The likelihood of an emergency or serious loss of services is slim, but the Parish has recognised the need to plan 'just in case'. We therefore have in place an Emergency Response Plan that enables us to utilise volunteers and resources from within the community of our two villages in the one Plan, and to operate and communicate in a safe and effective manner rather than trying to make it up at the time.

The plan can be seen in an outline version on our web page under 'Useful Information'. We would like to thank all the volunteers who put forward their names, their skills and their resources for the benefit of the community. We have included all who responded, and we have a list of the skills and resources mentioned by them.

A *complete plan* (not available publically) contains all necessary details and contacts for our volunteers. It is held in confidence and securely by the Emergency Services, the Parish Council Emergency Committee, and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Should any volunteer wish to know more about their possible role, or if anybody else wants to volunteer skills and resources, please contact the Parish Council through the Clerk Victoria Waples.

Fence and Lifebuoys

Following safety concerns raised by members of the Parish after seeing some children playing on the ice covering the pond opposite Smythies Farm in Stanningfield, the PC took advice and was informed that both the pond at Smythies Farm and the one close to the Church should be fenced and life saving equipment provided.

The Parish Council responded by purchasing two lifebuoys which are mounted on purpose made holders. Barry Colson had already committed to fence the Smythies farm pond and has done so at no cost to the Parish (our thanks as always go to Barry). The pond between the Village Hall and the Church was fenced by volunteers, thanks to Norman Mobbs, Graham Rouse and PC members who gave their time free of charge to get this done as quickly as possible. It had been our intention to plant a native English hedge at the latter pond along the road side to cover the post and wire which has been erected, but the plan has been put on hold following consultation with some of the local residents who are engaged in deciding what would look best to maintain this very attractive part of Stanningfield.

Parish Council

A number of questions have been raised over recent weeks, regarding the activities and communications of the Parish Council, so we thought it a good opportunity to give an overview of our main activities and the way we share information with everyone.

As a Parish Council we endeavour to represent the Parish and all of its residents in a positive way and also to spend the Parish budget in the most appropriate and productive way, all of which is published and available for anyone to review. We have four clearly defined objectives as listed below.

Council Objectives:-

1. To represent the whole community
2. To communicate and engage the community in supporting and developing village initiatives
3. To promote a caring spirit amongst the villagers of Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield
4. To ensure National and Local Government changes affecting the Parish are understood and acted upon

Our main activity in fulfilling these objectives are:-

1. Parish Council meetings which take place approx every six weeks. These are open meetings with dates and times published on notice boards, Village website and in these newsletters.
2. Regular issues of "Village Matters" which we write, print and distribute ourselves.
3. The village website which was set up under the One Suffolk portal (see below)
4. Open Parish Meetings (last one 12th November 2012)

All four of these communication methods are used to keep you up to date and try to engage as many people as possible in contributing to the various activities and projects going on at any given time. The last Open Meeting held in November 2012 was asking for your help and guidance with spending the £11,500 we had raised in grants, which is a considerable amount of money,- in fact more than the total yearly Parish budget. It should incidentally be noted that the Parish Council hear very little from Parishioners about suggestions/improvements to the area of the Parish in and around Bradfield Combust. So would welcome more feedback from this area.

We are keen to ensure we do the best we can, but it's only with your involvement and feedback that we can change and improve what we do. Parish Councillor contact details are regularly published in newsletters and on the website.

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield is a compact and manageable Parish with approx 250 houses. Why not play a greater part in helping to keep it special and well cared for?

New to the Parish

For anyone new to the Parish, first of all welcome, if you need to know anything relating to the Parish please feel free to contact a Parish Council member, or check out the Parish website at www.onesuffolk.net - click on 'Parish, Town & Villages', and then click on B or S.

Up-dated List of Parish Councillors

David Staff	Chairman	01284 828578
Tony Langan	Vice Chairman	01284 386125
Marie Bluett	Councillor	01284 828443
David Crawford	Councillor	01284 388944
Mark Duchesne	Councillor	01284 828566
Donald Green	Councillor	01284 828618
Ray McKenna	Councillor	01284 828691
Clive Mears	Councillor	01284 827462
Colin Walters	Councillor	01284 828565
Victoria Waples	Clerk	01284 787178

Website: www.onesuffolk.net, click on 'Parish, Town & Villages', and then click on B or S.

List of forthcoming 2013 Parish Meeting dates

Monday May 13 th **	Monday September 16 th *
Monday June 24 th *	Monday October 28 th
Monday August 5 th	Monday December 9 th

* Methodist Schoolroom - Bradfield Combust

** Parish Meeting as well as Annual General Meeting