

Blofield and Blofield Heath Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Blofield and Blofield Heath, held at Heathlands Community Centre on Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Rob Christie (Chair) and the Clerk, Sarah Osbaldeston presided.

Blofield Parish Councillors present –Stella Shackle, Rob Christie, Paul Culley-Barber, Stuart Smith and Sarah Dhesi, Mary Moxon, Yvonne Burton and Joseph Scholes.

In total approximately 10 parishioners were present. County Councillor Andrew Proctor was present and District Councillor Justine Thomas was present.

1. WELCOME

Rob Christie, Chair of Blofield Parish Council Welcomes everyone.

2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28th March 2020

They were approved by all present and duly signed by the chair.

3. CHAIRMAN / COUNCIL'S REPORT *(Rob Christie)*

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on the highlights of another busy year.

- 3.1. There was no parish council election on 2 May 2019 as there were fewer candidates than seats. This is disappointing; we began the year with one vacancy and end it with three as two councillors stood down in May and subsequently none of the five individuals who have expressed interest in joining the council have pursued this to the point of being co-opted. This is a concern, if people do not join the council it will run into trouble.

Neighbourhood Plan and Planning.

- 3.2. The Neighbourhood Plan policies continue to be part of the local planning guidance; they should be given weight by the Planning Authority and influence decisions, and the policies help the council when commenting on planning applications and considering issues.
- 3.3. For most of the last 12 months Broadland has had a 5-year land supply so all planning policies are in force.
- 3.4. The last large development site, the 170+ houses being built by Hopkins Homes, is under way and the developers are finalising the treatment of the road with BDC and NCC Highways. It will be narrowed to 'B' road width and a wide cycleway will be included. The PF that exits the site and crosses the A47 is still a concern and the parish council is seeking to divert it.
- 3.5. We now have the final draft of the Greater Norwich Local Plan which will run until 2036 and will set where economic development including housing is built. This is open for comment until later this month. The parish council welcomes the recognition that the parish has had more than its fair share of development recently and are pleased that the plan identifies only one site in Blofield, for about 15 houses, and one in Blofield Heath, for about 15 – 20. The plan says there are no credible alternative sites and gives reasons why all the other sites put forward are regarded as unsuitable. This means that if any of the sites that currently have planning permission are not built it will be difficult for a developer to replace them with alternative sites in either Blofield Heath or Blofield. Blofield Heath also gains some protection by being moved – for planning purposes – from the 'Key Service Centre' of Blofield and instead becoming a 'Village Cluster' with Hemblington. So if the GNLP is adopted as it is the parish should be better protected than it has been under the JCS.
- 3.6. Planning and development is still a big issue in the parish and is unlikely to go away.

Finance

- 3.7. We have again increased the precept this year. The finances are healthy but we have increased commitments and costs and it makes sense to ensure the parish is properly resourced in the future. CIL money is coming to the parish from new-build houses but there are restrictions on how we use it; and improvements to parish facilities will mean increased upkeep and management costs. We are building up cash reserves, both to meet inevitable maintenance and repair costs, but also to help fund improvements to what we already have and by way of new projects.

Projects

- 3.8. The footpath through the churchyard turned into a saga with the replacement gates being fitted in 2018 and the improvements to the footpath being done in April 2019.
- 3.9. The trod in Blofield Heath to Dye's Road was built – and NCC Highways said that their workmen were very pleased by the interest shown and the comments they received whilst doing the work. A bus shelter was installed in Blofield Heath following the request made by residents. Both these we part-funded by NCC Highways via the Parish Partnership scheme.
- 3.10. The remaining element of a partnership scheme – installing new signs at the entrances to both Blofield Heath and Blofield – should be done soon.

Blofield School and Community Land

- 3.11. NCC held an event in May 2019 at the school to show their proposal for a new school. This met with approval from those attending but little progress has been made as NCC has not been able to obtain Norfolk Homes' agreement to vary the covenant on land north of Wyngates - which NCC need for the school field. The land is due to be transferred for 'community use' which excludes education. Until this is resolved the project is stalled and this affects not just the school. The new school site would also enable the medical practice to share a new access and so build a large extension at the front of the surgery. Between the school and the surgery most of the residents of the parish are likely to be affected by, at best, a delay in providing the enlarged facilities that are badly needed. If the new school cannot go ahead and the surgery cannot expand most of us will suffer.
- 3.12. The parish council is working with NCC and BDC to see if they can find a way around the problem of Norfolk Homes having to agree to vary the condition that the land is for community use only. Our local County Councillor, Andrew Proctor, who is also the leader of NCC, is involved and we hope that a solution will be found soon.
- 3.13. One community land project that has progressed is the acquisition of about 4 acres of meadow and marsh running from Bay Bridge to the footpath to Braydeston. This was purchased last Spring. It will be a conservation site with public access, linked to both the public footpath and, in time, the Cremers Meadow site in Brundall. The project was been greatly facilitated by BDC which contributed to the purchase price, will contribute to the set-up costs, and has paid the legal fees. The site will open to the public as soon as possible – hopefully in the summer - but before it can open planning consent for the change of use has to come through, gates and fencing have to be installed and some work will have to be done at the culvert by the Bay Bridge entrance. The parish council has a 'Friends of Marty's Marsh' group to help with the project; working parties have taken place and the parish council is very grateful to the volunteers from the Friends Group, BADCOG and the Bure Valley Conservation Group who have put in hours of labour. Again, please look out for news on the website – and feel free to join the Friends.

A47

- 3.14. The A47 dualling is having an impact on the allotments entrance. HE has relocated the contractors' compound and we heard recently that the loss of land will be restricted to the current car park and a consequential loss of some of the top plots to create an access from the new car park. The net loss will be limited and there will be a gain of a new and better car park. We have struggled – as have neighbouring parishes – to get any joy from HE's community funds for help with local projects. Our requests for financial support for replacement play equipment at MHH and at Heathlands and towards creating public access and footpaths at Marty's Marsh were unsuccessful but we can re-apply. Unfortunately, HE haven't given any help or feedback so we are pressing them for this before re-applying.

Blofield Project: or how to spend the CIL

- 3.15. Further discussions with the management committees of Heathlands, the Courthouse and the Margaret Harker Hall have taken place to explore whether there are:
- ways of improving and extending the facilities to help accommodate increased demand as a result of the new housing, and/or
 - essential works required to maintain the current provision which could be funded, wholly or in part, from the CIL.
- 3.16. The last meeting was based on the recommendations of our consultants who undertook community engagement last summer. Their advice was to try to do a 'large project' so the halls have been asked to consider this and say whether or not they think a 'large project' may be viable at their site. This should bring us closer to having a range of options. We can then consult and see what residents prefer before making decisions. Clearly there will be a lot of work for voluntary groups, and the councillors, to bring a project or projects forward and BDC has offered help and support from Sally Hoare, a BDC officer.

What else?

- 3.17. Establishing a Public Right of Way in Hillhouse Lane/Clarks Loke in Blofield Heath is ongoing. NCC Rights of Way team said it may take 2 years to conclude but that's running out....
- 3.18. As before we are concerned for the future of Plantation Wood. The planned improvements to the A47 meant that HE was unable to proceed with any land disposal in the locality. We hope that once the N. Burlingham route is finalised, later this year, it may be possible to revive the disposal and seek funding for a purchase from one of HE's community funds. In effect HE would pay themselves which we hope might look attractive to them.

Acknowledgements

- 3.19. Our new District Councillors, Nigel Brennan and Justine Thomas are being supportive. It is good to have ward councillors taking an interest in our parish. Our County Councillor and Leader of NCC, Andrew Proctor, has been very helpful and supportive. I'll repeat what I say each year: the difference their input can make is significant and a bit depressing as it shouldn't need the involvement of an elected councillor to get the attention of a local authority.
- 3.20. I do want say thank you to the parish councillors who have been able to work on projects and issues over the year. Without their efforts things couldn't happen.
- 3.21. Last – but not least – a big thank you to our two Clerks who do a lot and do it to a high standard. We are fortunate to have such a good team.

Conclusion

- 3.22. I'm sure I've missed things. Sorry. I'll end by reminding everyone that it would be good to have a full complement of councillors. So anyone who wants to help make the village an even better place to live, help decide how the council spends perhaps £750,000 of CIL over the next few years, or just thinks they can help us do a better job should seek co-option. Please.

4. Blofield Court House Report (*Report by Mike Coley read by Robin Bunce*)

- 4.1. The last twelve months has seen much change within the Committee looking after the Court House.
- 4.2. The first loss was Sarah Tetlow who left the management committee followed shortly after by Mike Tetlow making it known that he would be standing down at the AGM in June. The work both these members of the committee cannot be underestimated, and they have left a massive whole to fill. I would wish to register our thanks and appreciation for all the work and time both Sarah and Mike have given over the years.
- 4.3. Following a couple of months of uncertainty, the committee has regrouped and following the AGM in June we have spent much time and effort to learn aspects of the building that have for many years been the sole responsibility of Mike. The Committee has worked hard following these changes and has managed to keep the regular use of the building going whilst looking to make changes that will benefit current and future users.
- 4.4. Our finances have been maintained at a healthy level. Village Screen has been a good source of income and regularly attracts full houses to our shows. We maintain our commitment to the Jazz evenings and look forward to more evenings throughout the year.

Our regular users have been consistent with some new ones trying to generate a customer base, unfortunately not all have been successful.

- 4.5. The committee is currently engaged in projects that will look to enhance the current audio/visual facility within the main hall. This is hoped to make available, use of the projector and audio equipment that will enable us to advertise more to commercial users as a suitable meeting room able to offer the ability to show presentations easily. Other projects for this year are to move forward with a project for the car park with potential changes to the ramp access and surfacing of the car park including management of surface water. We have engaged with contractors to replace some windows in the meeting room and ladies toilet, in addition a contract to repaint all exterior woodwork. In the immediate future we hope to have all gutters and roof valleys cleaned and sealed to manage rainwater and eliminate damage that is being suffered due to blocked downpipes and leaking joints.
- 4.6. An application has been submitted to the Parish Council for assistance in a full building survey that will lend assistance in formulating a long term strategy in repairs and maintenance.
- 4.7. The committee is still looking for additional personnel to fill vacancies of a secretary/minutes person and additional help to the booking clerk who has wished to retire for the last few years but thankfully has kept supporting us.
- 4.8. In short a year of challenges that the remaining members of the committee have risen to and managed to maintain a facility fit for all our users. To that I offer my thanks to all members and look forward to the coming year.

5. Heathlands Community Centre Report (Claire Norton)

- 5.1. 2019 will have to be remembered as the year of the major refurbishment of Heathlands. Work started in March last year and finished in July. and Lilly Barnes, who had just celebrated her 100th birthday, kindly cut the ribbon at our official opening ceremony on the 7th of September. It was a splendid day, the weather was warm and sunny, lots of people turned out and the builders provided an excellent BBQ well into the evening.
- 5.2. Everybody who helped to bring this refurbishment to a conclusion should be proud of what you all have achieved, Heathlands is now a facility which will enhance life in Blofield Heath. The external appearance of what was a rather dated exterior now has a sparkle and the interior offers a much greater degree of comfort. The Social Club in particular has had a complete make-over, with new carpets, curtains and comfortable seating. There are now two new Bars, each fully fitted out and backed up by a new temperature controlled Cool Room. The Committee Room and Entrance Hall have also been included in the fit-out and are now both inviting and comfortable spaces to enjoy.
- 5.3. A common denominator that is in everyone of my reports, is the simple fact, that although we have achieved so much with the refurbishment, Heathlands still takes a huge amount of money every year to run. Fundraising is constantly at the top of all our agenda's, we recently had no option but to replace the main boiler in the Hall and the Social Club needed new electronic cash registers, so both of these reduced our savings. We have quotes to redecorate the main Hall and we also need to re-do the Kitchen, but both of these will have to be put on hold for the time being.
- 5.4. The Jumble Sales continue to be a good investment as does the Christmas Fair and Beer Festivals. Jack and Jills tea and chat, the Bingo, the 50/50 Lottery and Garage Sale all helps as does the Supporting Heathlands page in Focal Point. We share the Burns night, the Open Garden and Wine Tasting with Hemblington Church.
- 5.5. The Monday Luncheon Club is still as popular as ever and is a real asset to the Village, as is Pre School and Messy Mushrooms. It was a bit sad that Fiona's Forest School suffered a bit from vandalism during the winter. Keep Fit, Zumba, Brownies, Short Mat Bowls, Badminton and a host more still use the main Hall and the Bowls Club and Junior Football are still popular, in so much that we really need to extend the carpark.
- 5.6. With the help of the Parish Council we were able to replace the fencing around the Under 5's play area and now thinking about the equipment as that has been high on our list for far too long. The Trod has been completed and much enjoyed by walkers and so much safer.

5.7. To conclude this report, I have to say a big thank you to your Parish Council, not only for the annual help you give us but also for the additional financial help with the refurbishment last year. I trust that you can see that we spent your money wisely.

6. MARGARET HARKER HALL REPORT (provided by Julian Rudd, Chairman of Trustees and read by Clerk, Sarah Osbaldeston)

Margaret Harker Hall Annual Report March 2020

6.1. Has it been a year already time has passed so quickly after taking on the role of the Chair of the Trustees the changes and upgrades of the hall have taken up a lot of time and we have all have been very busy all year.

Refurbishment and improvements

6.2. The toilet refurbishment and improvement has been the biggest change achieved and thanks go to the Parish Council for their financial help and guidance throughout this last year, thank you.

6.3. Along with the Parish Council, there have been funds and financial help from Awards for all, Norfolk Community Foundation, the Geoffrey Watling Charity.

6.4. Users and visitors to the hall have made some very positive comments about the great improvement in our facilities.

Hall Hire

6.5. Our income from the hire of the facilities continues to increase, although Margaret has had to turn down several bookings due to a lack of space.

Reorganisation of the Committee

6.6. With the stepping down of Paul as our treasurer there will be a reorganisation of responsibilities/duties, in the next few weeks, this will include the part time paid admin help from Lingwood Village Hall.

The last few months

6.7. Over these last few months we have continued to offer a good facility for the village with the green area to play on, this area is greatly appreciated by anyone who uses the area, even from outside the area.

6.8. The other facilities I.E. the Scouts, Blofield Tennis Club and Blofield Football Club all continue to do well and the main users of the hall itself are also doing very well and this remains encouraging for the future, we still have very little room for manoeuvre for extra things as we still need a bit of time to make sure any minor jobs and cleaning can take place.

6.9. New rubbish bins outside the hall and in the play areas have improved the problem of litter in all areas.

6.10. We have had two anti-social incidents this year one being drugs related and the other being motorcycles riding around on the football pitch.

6.11. This has highlighted a need to improve on the CCTV that we have possibly with an extra camera to be discussed in future meetings.

The future

6.12. I would like thank all the members of the committee for their support and assistance over the last year and would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support and more importantly our user groups and of course the villagers who without their continued support this facility would not be able to continue.

6.13. We look forward to the future of Margaret Harker Hall and its user groups with great interest and hope that all the future improvements in the area and the Margaret Harker Hall will not only make our village and surrounding areas a better place to live and also that this facility will continue to prosper and grow to be an even greater asset for the village and surrounding area.

7. BLOFIELD ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT (*Steven Hawker, Secretary*)

Allotment Association Annual Report

7.1. Since April of last year, the BAA has had numerous communications with the Highways Department regarding the duelling of the A47 here at Burlingham, all of which the parish council has been continuously kept updated. Due to the lack of information from the highways dept, little progress has been made with plots, as we're unsure of how much land

will be needed. The most recent meeting with the highways dept suggests that they may only need the land of the car park on a temporary basis, and that they would possibly need the first half row of the allotments when they realign the car park. However we only have two vacant half plots that may be needed by the Highways dept and are unable to be leased as they could be taken at any time, and so two already plot holders will take them on in order to keep the areas maintained, the parish council have agreed not to charge rent. The highways dept has offered financial help with our existing car park to obtain a type one stone to enable us to level the ground around the entrance.

Work parties

- 7.2. We had organised work parties in in the early part of the year and in June. The first was to trim down hedging and tidy up plots and to address water pressure issues from our water storage tank, and then in June, to lay hoggin in the entrance to the car park and to cut a small drainage cut to divert water away from the entrance and try to prevent erosion and to eliminate pot holes although initially this proved to work it is now apparent that more needs to be done.

Events

- 7.3. Unfortunately our event organiser had to leave due to ill health and we had no events scheduled through the year, however, we now have a new event organiser and we are pleased to announce that we have three or four events planned throughout the season which will be put forward to our members at the our AGM in April.
- 7.4. Finally, on behalf of the BAA I would like to thank the parish council for all their effort and help, in particular to Sarah Dhesi for her tireless efforts to help us and to Melanie Eversfield for all the minutes that she has written from our meetings. This concludes my report for BAA.

8. Footpath Warden Report (Yvonne burton)

- 8.1. Blofield & Blofield Heath Footpath Report to the Parish Council, the footpaths were walked in 2019 and Feb/March 2020.

Blofield Heath:

- 8.2. Footpath **Blofield FP1** between Bonds Road and Pedham Road remains in good condition and is well used.
- 8.3. Footpath **Blofield FP2** between Blofield Corner Road and Hall Road was also clear and walkable. Finger-post are at each end of this path.

Blofield:

- 8.4. **Blofield FP3**, this path has had a few problem reports in the past but has been walked in 2019 and is clear and accessible.
- 8.5. **Footpath Blofield FP4** which runs along the top of the south embankment of the A47 remains clear and hedging appears to have been cut back – perhaps NCC?
- 8.6. Footpath **Blofield FP4a**, this path runs southwards from Bullacebush Road across a field, through a conifer boundary and into Plantation Park. The finger post on Bullacebush Road was been replaced in February 2020 and I was fortunate enough to be passing when this job was done so thanked the NCC workmen!
- 8.7. I repeat last year's observation which remains unchanged on this path:-
Once one arrives at the A47 end of this path, the finger post simply points back along the path and gives no onward indication – even a Waymark Roundel on the post would be helpful here. The footpath officially crosses the A47 but the wooden boundary rail on the top of the bank between A47 and Plantation Park has no gap or stile to permit passage. There remains of course the issue of “should walkers be encouraged to cross the busy A47?” Norfolk County Council considers it too dangerous to cross the A47 where FP4a meets it, where there are five lanes of traffic (the slip road and the dual carriage way).
- 8.8. **Blofield FP5 & FP7**, these two paths cross a field adjacent to the A47 currently a building site for a large number of homes and therefore the paths are closed-off to the public. The council are investigating a possible diversion for this footpath which is due to reopen once the development is complete. The footpath will access the A47 adjacent to public open space and a playground on the new housing development. This raises significant concerns for the parish council.

- 8.9. Footpath **Blofield FP7a** is in effect the existing tarmac Shack Lane and thus poses no difficulties.
- 8.10. The path **Blofield FP8** parallel to Garden Road, is currently passable (March 2020), it has been severely overgrown in the past. There is a finger-post for FP8 at the Globe Lane end of this path, however the former finger-post at The Street end of this path fell over many years ago and stands temporarily approx 10 meters from the original position leaning against a low brick wall serving no purpose at all. A small Waymark Roundel now provides the only indication of a Public Footpath, the restoration of the finger-post to its former position on the highway at The Street end would be very helpful if we are to see this path in regular use.
- 8.11. Footpath **Blofield BOAT11** is a Green Lane and is used mainly as a dog-walkers lane – it is easily passable and needs no attention.
- 8.12. Footpath **Blofield FP12** runs alongside Blofield Church and is probably the Parish's most frequently used path.

9. Keep Blofield Special Report (*provided by Peter Mackness and read by the clerk Sarah Osbaldeston*)

- 9.1. Keep Blofield Special is a small group of volunteers who undertake litter picking for an hour or so twice per month in our two villages. An average of seven people participate, thus the villages get 24 days' attention per year with over 150 black bags of litter removed.
- 9.2. There are a few "hot spots" where litter is discarded repeatedly, the majority of litter being food packaging, drink cans and take-away food packaging. It is "low-level litter" and picking it up regularly hopefully discourages further littering and limits the visual harm caused. Occasionally we need to use the online Broadland Fly tipping Report Form to report items that are too large for us and would comment that Broadland's service continues to be excellent.
- 9.3. KBS have continued with maintenance of the various benches around the village which usually require just a light sanding and the application of wood preservative. These benches are still in good condition and the maintenance should keep them in good order for some years to come.
- 9.4. The bank between the Library and Blofield School prepared and planted by KBS a few years ago continues to provide colour through the seasons.
- 9.5. The Spring daffodils donated several years ago and planted at the various entrances to the villages continue to bloom and add to the pleasant aspect of Blofield and Blofield Heath.
- 9.6. KBS keeps an eye on the few public spaces in the villages, especially Town Pit in Blofield Heath, and works with the Parish Council if attention is needed at any time.
- 9.7. KBS is happy to help keep our two villages looking attractive and always welcomes suggestions and new members. It is a very informal group of people and can be contacted via the Parish Clerk. KBS are not alone in collecting litter and would like to thank others who also regularly collect litter around the village.

10. Tree Wardens Report (*Tree Warden, David Pilch*)

- 10.1. The parish tree wardens are David Pilch and Richard Codling. They are the eyes and ears of the parish council in respect of the health of trees and promoting their role in the green environment.
- 10.2. To this end they have been active members of The Friends of Marty's Marsh.
- 10.3. They have also been involved in the churchyard, undertaking to carry out recommendation to cut the ivy on oak tree T5 in the January 2020 tree survey by Treecare with some further work to be carried out.
- 10.4. In her report on the churchyard wall for the parish council the architect expressed concern about the ivy on the wall and the exuberant epicormic growth on the lime trees. These were limiting a proper examination of the wall. Accordingly, a working party of parish councillors, the parish tree wardens and church members set to, over three sessions, to cut back the epicormic growths in a manner that was not deleterious to the protected lime trees. On a separate occasion ivy was removed from the wall.

- 10.5. Elsewhere in the wooded churchyard which has seen a lovely display of snowdrops this year there has been some minor tree damage as a result of the storms. This has been taken care of in conjunction with other tasks recommended in the tree survey.
- 10.6. With a view to the safety of people using the public footpath through the churchyard two dead limbs of an ash tree were removed as they were overhanging the footpath. This tree is suffering from ash dieback so we will continue to monitor it.
- 11. BLOFIELD ORCHARD CONSERVATION GROUP** (*Provided by Richard Codling and read by Sarah Osbaldeston*)
- 11.1. This year has seen a real improvement in orchard activities.
- 11.2. In May we hosted an event for other Norfolk community orchards. It was run by the East of England orchards and apples project, the aim was to encourage local schools to visit their orchards.
- 11.3. During the Summer, activities included scything, raking and bud grafting to create new trees to have in reserve, in case any of the established trees died.
- 11.4. Pest and disease control are carried out to organic principles. Last year saw an increase in codling moth and winter apple moth, although it didn't adversely affect apple sales.
- 11.5. Unfortunately, our annual Apple day was cancelled due to heavy rain and resulting flooding on site. However, we did manage to set up a pop-up stall the following week at the Strumpshaw Shoulder of mutton apple event. We had around 20 varieties of heritage fruit on sale and this event proved quite popular. The income from this event and tree sales helped to pay for our land rent.
- 11.6. Brundall Co-Op donated a large 4 wheeled barrow to help us move heavy items around the orchard.
- 11.7. Last month we planted a further 13 varieties and now we have all the Norfolk heritage varieties in the orchard. The number of trees now stands at 77.
- 11.8. Our volunteer group, which continues to grow in number meets every Tuesday throughout the year, this equates to around 500 hours of unpaid voluntary work. Without this generous help the orchard project would not exist. This report was compiled by Richard Codling.
- 12. Blofield Fuel Charity Report** (*Sarah Russen, Charity Clerk*)
- 12.1. Good evening everyone. Here is the report for the Blofield Fuel Charity.
- 12.2. I have just taken over the position of Administrator for the above Charity due to the retirement of Mrs Brenda Dawson, and I must therefore apologise for not being quite up to date with its transactions and information.
- 12.3. The Charity owns 37 acres of land in Blofield Heath, which is leased out to two farmers, who pay a twice yearly rent. This income is divided into units, depending on how many applicants there are. Each applicant has to apply for a grant from the Blofield Fuel Charity at the end of October of each year, by way of an application form which can be collected from the two local Post Offices. The Trustees then convene to discuss the applications and how best to distribute the money.
- 12.4. The applicant/s must be over the age of 65 yrs. and be a resident of Blofield or Blofield Heath. The money used to be for coal but now money is given instead.
- 12.5. The Trustees must apologise to any resident, who has not yet received money for this year. This is due to an administration error with the bank and we are looking into new changes for the end of this year. This is the end of my report for 2019-2020.
- 13. BLOFIELD RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY** (received from Revd. Kevin Bilson, read by Sarah Osbaldeston)
- 14. REVE FOUNDATION REPORT** (received from Revd. Kevin Bilson, read by Sarah Osbaldeston)
- 14.1. The trustees of The Combined Reve Educational Foundation and Blofield relief-in-need charity meet twice a year. At the last meeting held on 3rd June the treasurer reported a

bank balance held of £696 for the Reve Educational Foundation and £783 for the Blofield relief-in-need charity. Only one application for a grant was received before the meeting and a grant was made of £250 from the Reve Educational Foundation. No further requests have been received to date.

- 14.2. Following communication from the Norfolk Assistance scheme, the trustees agreed that the combined charity would consider assisting any person signposted to the charity by the scheme, as long as they were a resident of either Blofield or Blofield Heath and funds were sufficient.
- 15. Blofield Church Report** (*Report provided by Revd. Kevin Bilson and read by Sarah Osbaldeston*)
- 15.1. Blofield church continues to hold three regular weekly services. These services include both traditional and more modern liturgies to appeal to a cross section of the community. Services are hosted at Christmas and Easter for Blofield School. The annual service of remembrance for the village is held each year on Remembrance Sunday.
- 15.2. The Church is open for visitors every day of the year, including for visitors seeking a quiet space for personal reflection or prayer. There is also morning prayer led by the rector at on Tuesday morning and a time of stillness and prayer led by the Rector on Thursday from 4.15 pm - 5.00 pm. Any requests for prayer are always included.
- 15.3. On a Wednesday morning, following the mid-week service, there is a community café at which light refreshments are available for a donation. This is open to all visitors and is not limited to those who attend the service.
- 15.4. The church continues to run a very successful 'play church' for children from birth to nursery age and their parents / carers during regular term times, on a Wednesday afternoon.
- 15.5. The challenge of maintaining Blofield Church building in its current excellent state of repair is not an easy one but the church was grateful for the gifts that were donated as a result of the parish gift day appeal in June of last year.
- 16. Speed watch report** (*Speedwatch co-ordinator Paul Culley-Barber*)
- 16.1. Good evening, I'm Paul Culley-Barber, the Community Speedwatch Co-Ordinator for Blofield Parish. A brief history and background to community speedwatch.
- 16.2. The team was formed and trained in January 2018 with an initial seven team members, three from Blofield Heath and four from Blofield.
- 16.3. To conduct a speed watch session, we must have three trained volunteers in hi-vis jackets and are required to place large speed watch warning signs in the location where we are operating. Drivers have plenty of warning we are in an area and so could easily adhere to the speed limits. One person will operate the radar gun, another writing down the required details, time, speed, vehicle model, colour and registration number – with the third person acting as an additional pair of eyes to confirm the details recorded.
- 16.4. There are 10 locations in Blofield and 6 in Blofield Heath where we can monitor speeds. Each location is approved by the police contact to ensure it is suitable. We cannot monitor 20MPH roads – only those that are 30MPH.
- 16.5. Each vehicle that is over the defined speed limit is recorded on the monitoring sheet and the co-ordinator submits the sheet to the police contact within 48 hours of the session being held.
- 16.6. Assuming the details recorded are accurate, vehicle registration number, make and model, the registered owner will be issued a letter from the police. Repeat offenders will be visited by the police to talk through their actions and explain why speeding is dangerous. If a vehicle is recorded at 50MPH in a 30MPH limit then the driver receives an instant visit rather than a letter.
- 16.7. The purpose of the Speed watch team isn't to catch people speeding – we want to deter speeding and hope that by having a physical presence on the roads that drivers will think twice about their speeds, slow down and adhere to the limits.
- 16.8. Since my last report, disappointingly the team has conducted only two monitoring sessions. This has been due to a lack of volunteers, my availability and the weather.

- 16.9. There have been regularly pleas for help in Focal Point, which attracted an additional four volunteers from Blofield. Subsequently the number of volunteers on the team have dwindled to such a level where it is unlikely the team will continue.
- 16.10. If anyone is interested in joining the team or taking over elements of the co-ordinator role then please do get in touch and I'll be happy to talk you through the process.

17. District Councilor's Report (*District Councillor, Justine Thomas*)

- 17.1. Justine Thomas provided a verbal update of highlights of work across the parish.
- 17.2. *Nigel Brennan* (the second District Councillor) sent his apologies.

18. County Councilor's Report (*Andrew Proctor*)

- 18.1. Andrew Proctor provided a verbal update and detailed report of the work at Norfolk County Council throughout the year. (See Appendix A).

19. To hear and discuss any matters raised by members of the public

- 19.1. No further comments raised.

20. Closing comments by the Chair Rob Christie

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....