

BRAMERTON BUGLE

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Parish Council report

Over the past twelve months the parish council has done its best to make sure that the village continues to look well. Grass and hedges on all parish land have been cut regularly and, as you will read elsewhere, our current programme of tree work is coming to an end. During the spring and summer a good number of volunteers took part in an extensive litter clearance and later they and others cleaned and repainted the village notice boards, the bus shelter and the phone box, while others helped tidy the play area and put down bark beneath the swings and climbing frame. Many thanks to all who took part and gave their time so freely.

You may recall that this time last year our conservation area was due to be reviewed by South Norfolk Council. As a result, a number of minor changes have been made, for example to straighten up a few boundary lines, but overall the area remains much as before. For a copy of the appraisal go to https://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/bramerton_conservation_area_character_appraisal_and_management_guidelines.pdf. If you follow this link please ignore the word “draft” in the title as I am assured this is the final version approved by South Norfolk Council.

Down beside the river we recently replaced all the bollards next to the car park so it is now more difficult for cars to be driven onto The Common. You might remember that last year we had planned to plant hedging there as well but unfortunately we missed the planting season, but by the time you read this the hedge should be in place. After a number of requests we have installed a dog refuse bin close to the car park area and I am pleased to report that this is now a well-used facility.

Parish council finances remain in good heart. We are raising the parish portion of your council tax in line with inflation so that we are able to maintain the level of service we have provided over recent years. Our biggest item of expenditure last year was the parish clerk's salary, and after that it was spending on trees, grass and hedge trimming. Don't forget that the **Annual Parish Meeting** will be in the village hall on **15 April at 7:30pm**, when you have the opportunity to hear more about the work of the Parish Council and other Bramerton organisations.

Village Hall

Following recent highly successful coffee mornings, **Bramerton Village Hall Committee** are advertising for some new members to run this important village amenity and meeting place. If you think you would like to be involved, or would like to know more, please contact Geoff Shaw on 538179 or any committee member.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday, 15 April 2019 starting at 7.30pm. All residents are warmly invited to this meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome & minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2018.
2. Parish Council report.
3. District & County Councillor's report
4. Village Reports
 - St. Peter's church
 - Bramerton relief of need
 - Bramerton society
 - Sunbeams pre-school
 - Bramerton Christadelphians
 - Village hall committee

5. Parishioners' Questions

Refreshments will be served after the business part of the meeting and we will say farewell and thanks to David Blake and Geoff Shaw who are standing down as parish councillors. Between them these two have served on the parish council for something like 70 years and so we will mark the occasion with a presentation.

Farewell and welcome

You may have read in *Eleven Says* that our parish clerk, Brian Ansell, resigned at the end of December. He had been clerk for 16 years and we wish him well in his retirement. We were very fortunate to appoint and welcome in his place Yvonne Wonnacott who is very well qualified and comes with extensive experience as parish clerk in other villages.

To get in touch with the parish council contact Yvonne Wonnacott

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You can keep up to date with all the Council's work by going to the village website www.bramertonvillage.org where you can read minutes of past meetings, copies of Council policies and, once it is ready, you will find the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. You will also find news about events and activities in and around Bramerton on that site.

Allotments

There are allotments available on the site in Hill House Road. If you are interested in renting one to grow your own fruit and vegetables please get in touch with the parish clerk, Yvonne Wonnacott.

Tree warden report

Trees on parish land

Activity on trees on parish land is much reduced this year as we have finally caught up with all the remedial work recommended in the tree survey that was carried out in 2016 and it is almost time for another survey to be planned. The cost of this year's parish tree work was £1250.00. Your Parish Council does its best to use parish money wisely and gives top priority to work on trees that are causing concern in areas frequented by the public.

We have trimmed two trees on the recreation ground; one oak adjacent to the bowling green, overhanging Easthill Lane, has had a hefty hair cut and will soon have a much bushier appearance now it has lost its split ends. You will also note that the willow by the climbing frame has been felled as the branches had become brittle and were a potential danger to young adventurers. On the allotments we have recently cut back a lanky shrub adjacent to the public footpath as it was restricting access.

This year's tree work concludes the actions specified by the tree survey carried out in 2016, and we have caught up on a backlog going back 11 years since the previous survey. In the past three years we have made safe almost 100 mature trees on the recreation ground and down by the river. Thankfully it was only necessary to fell a few immature, declining and congested trees, mainly ash, cherry, oak and sycamore.

We always ask the tree surgeons to leave the wood that has been trimmed from the trees in piles to provide shelter for bugs or small mammals, while larger logs are left for parishioners to take away for fuel. Please remember to share wisely and make sure you leave the wood to season well - ideally you should allow a year for every inch of thickness. Dry wood has a much higher calorific value and too much sap simply gives off a lot of smoke and not much heat.

During the year parishioners who have needed work carried out on their own trees have been very diligent in informing the parish council of their intentions and/or applying for planning permission. Many thanks for your support. If you have concerns about trees near you please let me know via the Bramerton website www.bramertonvillage.org or Bramerton Facebook page.

Community Orchard, Mill Hill

There are 19 heritage fruit trees on the Community Orchard which is on the field beside the allotments - enter by the gate on Mill Hill. This is a peaceful place where parishioners can rest, contemplate and enjoy the wonderful view across the Yare valley.

Despite last year's very dry summer all the fruit trees on the Community Orchard have survived and are showing signs of spring growth. Although the trees are still very young a handful of cherries appeared last summer and were quickly eaten; by whom we do not know. I do hope they were full of flavour!

During the warm weather this February a small band of helpful volunteers trimmed and re-mulched the fruit trees and replaced the tree guards to protect the bark from deer and rabbits.

Affordable homes in Church Farm Close

There has been local concern that the **three affordable homes** forming part of the new housing development at Church Farm Close have remained unoccupied for too long. We understand from the developer that these units at 1-3 Church Farm Close should be taken on by Saffron Housing for rent later this year following the resolution of some planning issues. There are two x 2 bed and one x 1 bed properties.

Litter

Surlingham organised an annual **riverbank walk spring clean** in February, from Surlingham Ferry Pub to the foot of Hill House Road in Bramerton. Some Bramerton residents cleared lots of plastic rubbish on the stretch of riverside footpath, most adjacent to the river going east, making it a more attractive walk and to improve the environment. There is another opportunity to help keep your village clean:

BRAMERTON EASTER LITTER PICK

EASTER SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2019

Come and help clear up your Village for Spring!

Please meet at the village hall (which will be open) from 9.30am

Refreshments available afterwards!

To make sure that those participating are fully prepared and equipped and safe please report to the Village Hall first for a short briefing before starting out. Please wear suitable clothing (high Vis if possible), gloves and stout shoes or boots. If you have a litter picker please bring it with you, although some will be provided along with rubbish sacks.

And on the theme of looking after the environment, one resident writes

My zero black bin resolution

I was horrified when I heard that my black bin rubbish was being sent all the way to China, and when I heard they had refused any further shipments it may now be going to Thailand. So here is my zero black bin policy:

1. I no longer purchase any items wrapped in plastic - one supermarket in Norwich allows me to use my own container for raw fish etc;
2. I will use a worm bin for my food waste;
3. I have asked the local milkman to deliver my milk in returnable glass bottles.