

## **Bucklesham Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report May 2024**

To begin, I would like to remind everyone that we are in a new term of office as Parish Councillors. Having seen two of our stalwart Councillors retire at the end of the previous administration, we were elected unopposed in May 2023, along with new Councillor Kathryn Roper. In September we co-opted Councillor Gemma Marriage – thank you for the contribution you have made to the Council thus far.

A further 'thank you' must go to all of our Councillors – we are blessed with a group of volunteers all with a wide range of knowledge and skills, and all of whom give their time and energy to ensure that all things Bucklesham are dealt with honestly, with sincerity, integrity, and independence.

Thanks must also go to our District Councillors, Lee Reeves and Mike Nimnney. Both have supported the Parish in all that we have asked of them. Our County Councillor, Patti Mulcahy, regrettably has had personal and business commitments, together with a period of ill health which has prejudiced her involvement with the village. Nevertheless we thank them all for their contribution to our administration.

Our Clerk, Ruth, deserves all the accolades possible. She has continued to conduct herself in a positive, diligent and professional way, constantly keeping us in order and amazingly finding avenues of grant funding to enhance the assets of our Parish. So Ruth, many, many thanks, and we look forward to your continued support in 2024/25.

### **What have we achieved this year**

- The resurrection of an active Community Council – thanks to all involved, particularly Lynda Seagroatt, who was instrumental in getting the Community Council up and running, and the new Committee: Jackie Brunning as Chair, Jenny Cribb as Vice-Chair, Tracey Thompson as Secretary, Lois Mackinlay as Treasurer, David Riddleston, Kriszti Royal, and Sarah Hall as Committee members. It was most pleasing to see David continuing to serve as a Community Council member to share his wealth of knowledge and experience.
- With grants we were able to support the Coronation of King Charles III with a Tea Party (managed by the newly-appointed Community Council) and to provide the Coronation Mugs for all the youngsters of the Village.
- We continued to successfully manage the Playing Field by:
  - installing a new fully-inclusive children's roundabout, which was requested by 3 village children, all of whom helped with the fundraising and grant applications;
  - providing the Monkey Challenge Climbing Wall for children and adults of all ages and abilities;
  - and providing 5 new circular picnic benches made from recycled plastic.

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds have enabled us to refurbish the bus shelter, help with numerous Village Hall improvements and on-going maintenance, provide new picnic benches on the Playing Field, and place new grit bins where they were requested.
- We have almost seen the completion of Oak Tree View – the 33 new houses developed by Castlemore Homes. We welcome all new residents that have taken occupancy. At the same time we thank Castlemore for the help they have offered us over the period of construction, especially Gary Bareham, Construction Director, for all his help throughout the village. We are particularly grateful for the financial contribution towards the D-Day Beacon and the celebration tea party planned for June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- We have campaigned and consulted with Suffolk County Council for a speed reduction on the C375 to protect the village school and the children therein. This effort continues.
- We represented the views of the village regarding the national '20's Plenty' campaign, through the residential roads within the village.
- As well as all of the aforementioned (and there may be more), the Parish Councillors have participated in:
  - the Felixstowe Peninsula Partnership;
  - Cross Boundary Parish Council Meetings;
  - SALC Forums and Conference;
  - extensive Councillor training;
  - attendance at NSIP Conference;
  - attendance at planning conferences;
  - and Allotment Management Course.
- We dealt with many Highways issues, including the media involvement in getting the footpath from the village to the school free of the dreaded hemlock plant.
- The Thermal Imaging Project was again made available to the Parish, with over 35 families benefiting from borrowing the equipment to ascertain the effectiveness of their insulation (or lack of it).
- The Annual Litter Pick generated over 30 bin bags full of rubbish. We are indebted to all of our 'Wombles', including the help of our MP, Dr Therese Coffey, who rolled her sleeves up and literally gave us a hand.
- A major issue this year has been the transfer of the management and ownership of the 20 allotments in Green Crescent from ESC to Bucklesham Parish Council. This has been a huge undertaking which is near completion. Many thanks must go to all involved, particularly Ruth, Councillor Gemma Marriage and Councillor Clive Lenton.

What a year we have had! Moving forward through the next 12 months we will continue to manage our budget as prudently as possible, our precept balance sheet is under the constant pressure of inflation, and only due diligence will see us remain in the black and achieve the necessary reserves for the future.

I would just remind everyone of our attempts to consult and communicate with the residents of Bucklesham through our website, Bucklesham Bugle Newsletter, Bugle Bulletin Email Alerts, and not forgetting that a warm welcome awaits those that feel able to attend and observe the Parish Council Meetings in person.

In closing, I must record the biggest compliment we could receive as a Parish; I had the privilege to represent Bucklesham and receive the award of

**SMALL VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARD – HIGHLY COMMENDED**

An award from Suffolk Association of Local Councils that truly reflects the work of the Parish Council, our clerk Ruth Johnson, and all those involved in all that is good about our village.

Once again, thanks to you all for your continued support.

David Brinkley

Chair, Bucklesham Parish Council

May 2024

# **Bucklesham Community Council Annual Report 2024**

The newly formed Community Council consists of the following members;

Jackie Brunning – Chair  
Jenny Cribb – Vice Chair  
Lois MacKinlay - Treasurer  
Tracey Thompson Secretary  
Lynda Seagroatt  
David Riddleston  
Sarah Hall

## **Past Events**

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 the Community Council held a craft fair in the village hall which raised approximately £355 by selling pitches to stallholders, selling refreshments of tea, coffee and cake, having a tombola and charging an entrance fee of £1. It was a great success and another craft fair will take place on 18 May 2024.

## **Future Events**

### **Quiz Nights**

The Shannon have confirmed they are happy for the Community Council to host quiz nights there, preferably on a Tuesday evening as that is a quiet night for the pub, and that the pub would provide a meal of chilli. An entry fee of £5 a head has been suggested which includes the chilli (Dan to provide the cost per head) with 4 team members per table. The quiz will be held bi-monthly.

### **Craft Fair**

The craft fair held on 11 November was a great success and the Community Council hopes to hold such fairs in May and November each year.

### **D-Day celebrations**

The Community Council are making arrangements for the D-day celebrations by holding a tea party in the village hall on Saturday 8 June 2024 from 2pm-4pm where afternoon tea will be served and a children's entertainer has been hired. This will be a free event for the villagers and we hope to replicate a street party in the hall by having rows of tables and decorating the hall in a 1940s theme with flags, blacked out windows, sandbags and newspaper cuttings from the era.

### **Big Butterfly Count July 2024**

It has been suggested that households in the village are given a butterfly to colour and place in their windows to create a butterfly trail. The school will hopefully get involved with taking the pupils round the village to find the butterflies.

**Tracey Thompson May 2024**

## **Bucklesham Primary School Report May 2024**

It has certainly been another busy year at Bucklesham as we continue to encourage all children to 'work hard and aim high'.

The children have enjoyed a lot of curriculum enrichment activities around our locality such as trips to Colchester Zoo, The Long Shed at Woodbridge and the Farm Fair at Trinity Park. The children have all visited Bucklesham Church for Christingle and Harvest Festival this year, which the parents really enjoyed too. We have had theatre groups and dance companies in school doing performances and workshops with the children. The children and staff took part in Suffolk Mind wellbeing training this year, and we continue to have wellbeing and nurture at the heart of all that we do at Bucklesham.

The children continue to be very active in their leadership in school with Head Pupils showing visitors round and organising fundraising for their chosen charities of Suffolk Mind and Cancer Support. Our new gardening club have been very active planting trees, flowers and keeping the grounds tidy, alongside our amazing parent volunteers. The children continue to participate in a lot of sporting tournaments and relish the opportunity to represent our small school.

We have a few spaces in some of our year groups; please contact us if you would like to have a tour of our school or get involved in volunteering.

Miss Rachael Rudge

Head teacher

## **Bucklesham and Foxhall Village Hall**

### **Annual Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Committee continued to employ Ruth Johnson to undertake all roles concerning Hall management, rather than the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, Bookings Clerk and Chairman, being carried out on a voluntary basis by various committee members. The payroll was administered by SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) to ensure all PAYE and National Insurance were paid. The Committee agreed that due to a lack of Committee members who were in a position to take on these roles on a voluntary basis, as had been done in the past, Ruth's employment would become permanent.

Our fantastic staff member Bridget continued to manage the Hall's cleaning regime to ensure the high standards of the Hall were maintained, with often daily visits committing to clean the Hall before each booking.

All regular bookings were maintained and bookings for private parties continued to increase.

We successfully received four more Grants to help with fuel bills and to continue with our maintenance programme.

Our total Income in 2023 was £15,858. Income from Hall Hire was £13,900 an increase of £4,285 on the 2022 figure of £9,615. This is the 6th year in a row that income from Hall Hire charges has increased. The remaining income was from Grants. Expenditure was £13,324 meaning a total profit of £2,533, despite paying Ruth as Clerk for the complete year which was a new expense.

A full breakdown of the accounts has been recorded and audited by D.Wardle, CIPFA. Our Reserves stand at £20,000 as an insurance in case of future lockdown restrictions impacting on Hall hire, or any major project that requires significant funding.

To sum up: the year 2023 ended with a bank balance of £29,445, compared to the balance at the start of year of £26,911. The continued success of the Hall is due to the dedicated Committee working together as a great team to protect our fantastic community hub for the whole village, our brilliant member of staff Bridget, and the Grants we were successfully able to secure from various funds.

**Ruth Johnson, Clerk to the Village Hall – May 2024**