

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting on the 13th May. A report on the annual activities of the Parish Council was received from the Chair, Peter James. Jess Bailey, as Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, provided a report on the annual progress of the NDP process. Reports on the annual activities of the County and Borough Councils were provided by County Councillor Stuart Dark and Borough Councillor Alistair Beale respectively. Both reports would be made available on the Parish Council website. The meeting agenda culminated with a period in which parishioners had an opportunity to question the Councillors present.

The May Annual Parish Council meeting followed, beginning at 7.30pm. The first item on the meeting agenda was the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. Councillor Kevin Hobart was voted to the post of Chair and Councillor Robin Arbenz was voted to the position of Vice-Chair. These positions are elected annually, so both Councillors will remain in place until May 2025.

Casual Vacancy

Prior to the May Annual Parish Council meeting Maria West handed her resignation to the Chair, following time served as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council thanked her for all of her time, service and commitment to the Council and village.

The Local Election Rules 2006 require the Casual Vacancy to be advertised on the Notice Board and Parish Council Website for a period of 14 days. If within the 14 days of the date of the notice a request, in writing, that an election should be held to fill the vacancy, signed by ten local government electors of the Ward is given to the Proper Officer (BCKLWN), then an election will need to be held.

If no such request is received by the Proper Officer (BCKLWN), the Parish Council will take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Finance

The annual accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2024, were approved by the Parish Council. The Internal Audit will be carried during May by Mr Roger Canwell and his auditor's report will be presented to Council at the June meeting. Also, at this point the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be reviewed by the Parish Council and subsequently submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP for external audit.

The end of year accounts will be available on the Parish Council website.

D-Day 80th Anniversary

Great Massingham will mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day by lighting the beacon on Thursday 6th June at 9.00pm. The beacon will be lit as part of a nationwide chain of beacons across the UK. Cllr A Brun will also play the 'Last Post' to commemorate the 80 years since the Normandy Landings of 1944.

You are all invited to come along to share this special occasion.

Play Area

The Platform Roundabout has been temporarily removed from use as repairs are necessary to ensure that the roundabout is safe to use. Please could we ask that all users take heed of both the hazard tape and signs and not make any attempt to use this piece of equipment at the present time. The repairs will hopefully be carried out relatively quickly and the equipment will then be made available to use once again.

From a long-term perspective, the Council are investigating options and pricing to replace the current roundabout with a modern equivalent, hopefully during the course of the year.

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 10th June at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meeting and there is an opportunity to make comments or ask questions of the Council during the first part of the meeting.

Please note that the Parish Council will not respond to posts on social media and would ask that any comments, complaints or compliments be directed to the Clerk via the contact details provided.

To contact the Clerk, Sarah Harvey you can telephone 01328 823391, email gmparishclerk@gmail.com or write to Byanoak, Leicester Road, South Creake, NR21 9PW.