

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council, Community Connection, 23 July, 2016.

The minutes of our Parish Council meetings are published on this Website and the villages' notice boards, but there are several issues from the July meeting that it will be useful to underline: one of these concerns an initiative to introduce a 'Carers' Card'. I think we would all agree that among our greatest contemporary heroes are those people, from right across the age range, who look after friends and relatives who have particular needs, perhaps connected with an illness or mobility issues. The Carers' Card will contain essential information – important contacts, services and so on - which can be conveniently accessed by carers or someone acting on their behalf. There will be more details in due course: further support for those looking after others will be immensely valuable.

The A1066 gives us some concerns at present. There has been a recent accident on the A1066, near the School Road junction, (traffic speeds along the 'Chequers' stretch too frequently) to say nothing of the flooding that can cause a hazard. I walked from Blooms to the School Road junction yesterday – it was dry, weather was perfect, but the walk was awful. The kerb/verge on both sides is uneven and rutted, and there are raised ironworks. The Council has given NCC Highways a report recently, and we shall maintain our efforts to get this stretch of road made far safer, and also continue to push for a reduced speed limit.

The Clerk reported on the progress with replacing the Pillar Box Corner village sign: he had been asked to submit two estimates to the insurance company – we have since heard that our insurers are taking a positive approach to our claim! We are also concerned with the state of some of our roadside 'furniture' (pillar boxes, signposts, street names and so on) and the unkempt nature of some verges. I hope to have something positive to report about improvements shortly!

You will know that we took part the 'Anglia in Bloom' initiative recently (many thanks to Linda and Katherine for their time and commitment to bring this about), and on 14 July many of you will have seen the assessors, complete with green blazers and clipboards, going about their business. We're hoping for some useful recommendations: congratulations to our Primary School who were praised for the super gardening and associated skills of the pupils.

As you know, we have had a 'Speedwatch' programme for some time: I know that some people are not fully comfortable with this, and that some passing motorists who use us as a 'rat run' can be callously abusive. To help us further with the critical business of encouraging safe, and legal, driving through our villages, we have this week taken delivery of two 'Sam' speed indicator signs, which have been found to help keep speeds under the legal maximum, and have the great benefit of not needing continuous supervision. These will be deployed in Bressingham Common Road and The Street, Fersfield. Further details appear elsewhere.

Our thanks to all those people who continue to help strengthen our community spirit and environment quality,

With my best wishes,

Richard.