

Community Connection, 31 January, 2018.

We held our February Parish Council Meeting on Monday 29 January, in order to enable a full attendance. Our principal areas of discussion included the need to combat loneliness, the development of our county of Norfolk and the quest for improved internet connection quality.

At our previous meeting, we had looked at the problem of rural isolation/loneliness, and discussed John Kemp's paper on this issue. After much debate, we felt it was essential to work with other agencies and to attempt to find common ground and approach to some of the initiatives we now face. Having recently heard of developments with Neighbourhood Watch at a police/community meeting, we agreed a way forward was clearly to link Neighbourhood Watch with community care and to explore a way forward on this. In the meantime, you will find a separate item asking for you to assist with the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch. Please support this!

You will probably have heard of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership, which includes our own South Norfolk District Council. Everyone agrees Norfolk, and our part of it, must keep face with development and improved infrastructure....we need more houses for a start.....whilst retaining its beauty and individuality. We need to ensure that there is collaboration: for instance, agreement will be needed concerning additional housing where there will have to be the necessary facilities (schools, health services, transport, for instance). You may be aware that bodies such as The Campaign to Protect Rural England are keeping a close eye on things. If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please look at www.gnlp.org.uk.

I think we all find our internet connection a bit slow at times: one way of improving this may well be to support the B4RN initiative: PLEASE SEE THE SEPARATE ITEM CONCERNING THIS.

Other items we discussed concerned the surface water and drainage problems in several areas of our villages, the allotments, our two War Memorials, the continuing problems of horses damaging footpaths and parking in School Road. I think this is going to be a busy time – please keep your eye on the Website!