

Community Connection; 23 May, 2018.

Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council meetings are attended, where possible, by our County and District Council elected members. At our meeting of 14 May, Beverley Spratt, our Norfolk County Council member, was with us. We were relieved to hear from him that, contrary to earlier media reports, Norfolk County Council was in a sound financial position. Beverley discussed with us two issues connected with the A1066: the flooding during periods of wet weather and the practicalities of the access from the A1066 to the Harvest House development. We are very thankful to Robert West and his regional NCC highways team for their actions in improving the drainage – and safety – of the A1066 at Bressingham (you will know there have been traffic controls to allow this to happen). Beverley also explained that he had not been able to arrange a visit from a member of the NCC highways planning team to address the Parish Council (and any members of the public who wished) at a meeting (suggested for 14 May) to explain the thinking behind the A1066/Harvest House proposed entrance. The design of this has caused concern in regard to safety: our hope had been that some explanation from those responsible for the safety of the highway would be able to allay our fears.....the communication we received from Mr. Hanner of NCC on this issue is reproduced on the Bressingham & Fersfield Website. We did feel a little surprised that officers, employed by a council, did not support the request of an elected councillor to attend a meeting that was intended to reassure community members (their employers.....?) It is also of note that we discussed with Beverley the rising feeling that the Council Tax does not represent value-for-money in all areas of responsibility (road surfaces, drainage, potholes as examples, perhaps).

Other items discussed at our meeting included our desire to strengthen community care (by 'joining up' other agency work and proposed initiatives with our moves to improve life quality, particularly in combating loneliness and poor inclusion, for example) in the face of financial constraint and increasing administration concerning safeguarding. The Parish Council is the responsible authority for our allotments in Common Road: we agreed that Councillor John Kemp and the allotment committee should call in estimates with a view to improving the allotment access drive. We also looked at planning proposals and the perennial issue of heavy lorry traffic.

You will know that 2018 marks the centenary of the 1918 Armistice, and that there is a national programme of recognition for this. We have secured a grant of £500 from our South Norfolk District Council towards our own arrangements for Sunday, 11 November, when there will be ceremonies at our two war memorials (Bressingham morning, Fersfield afternoon )and a lunch-time event in the Village Hall. We hope to establish a unified programme, and will shortly be asking all those people who are interested, to attend a meeting shortly. Please keep an eye open for further details about this.

.....and, a huge 'thank-you' to those people who took part in the recent litter collection, and to Geoff Lazell for his leadership of this. We now look forward to lovely weather for the 'Open Gardens' next week and the Fete later in the Summer.