

# CLEY PARISH NEWS

Issue 5

May 2008

Published by  
Cley Parish Council

Clerk:  
Tricia Temple-Crowe  
Morning Flight  
42 High Street  
Blakeney  
01263 741576  
cley@glavenvalley-  
parishes.co.uk

Chairman:  
Richard Kelham  
Starr House  
High Street, Cley  
01263 740186  
richard\_kelham@  
yahoo.co.uk

Vice Chairman:  
Jennifer Murray  
Mariner's Hard  
High Street, Cley  
01263 740404

Members:  
Richard Allen  
Old Turnip House  
Blakeney Road,  
Wiveton

Jean Baker  
Astley  
Coast Road, Cley  
01263 740529

Frances Kearney  
The Studio  
Coast Road, Cley  
01263 740382

Mark Randell  
The Shieling  
Holt Road, Cley  
01263 740628

Wendy Watt  
Fairstead Cottage  
The Fairstead, Cley  
01263 740355

## Looking Forward...in hope?

As one should at the beginning of a new Council, especially one refreshed and invigorated by new, young, blood, we are looking to the future with...ermm...a bit less trepidation.

The elections last May left the Council rather short of its intended number so a few co-options were necessary. The new Council (for details see the sidebar to the left) has three brand new members and four old hands, the former having just about halved the average age of members! For that alone they would be warmly welcome, but they have also been active members during the last year, so a *very* warm welcome and thank you. Thanks also to the other councillors for all *their* work.

It's not easy being a parish councillor. To paraphrase Kipling it's responsibility without power. You are expected to represent the interests of the parish to (and often against) all the other interests and authorities: they are legally obliged to listen to you, but having listened they are totally at liberty to ignore everything you have said. And frequently do.

You get your three minutes at Planning Committee meetings; your intervention with Highways might get a hole in the road fixed nanoseconds sooner than anyone else's complaint, but it still hasn't got us a much needed gully on the Fairstead. We campaigned for years to have the signpost on the corner of High Street and New Road reinstated and when it finally happened Highways did us proud with a fine new copy of the old one. Indeed the Highways Department do finally seem to have accepted that the AONB in general, and conservation areas in particular, do need a different approach in the matter of street furniture; one size

really does not fit all. For better or worse tourism is now the life blood of this area and the appeal of the North Norfolk coast is precisely its character and old world charm but we do have to keep reminding the authorities, and some householders, that this is the case.

The government has been dangling the carrot of enhanced powers for parish councils for some time. To get these enhanced powers councils, and especially their clerks, have to jump through a good many hoops, such that it is generally only the towns and larger parishes that can afford the time, energy and money necessary. In the meantime we have to do the best we can with our existing powers.

The long-running saga of the flood warning sirens, and attempts by county council officials on the oddly named Norfolk Resilience Forum to have them removed, is another case where eternal vigilance is necessary: Tony Aberdein has been indefatigable in fighting for their retention. Thank you Tony.

---

## Parish Records

No, not the latest indie label trying to sign the Arctic Monkeys, but the distilled wisdom of past Cley parish councils as recorded in their Minute Books. These have recently been handed to Dr Alban's team at the Norfolk Record Office for safe keeping. They can be consulted at any time as they are in the public domain – you merely have to trek off to Martineau Lane, Norwich.

Unfortunately we did not have a complete set. In particular the volume covering much of the 1980s is missing: if anyone knows of its whereabouts please get in touch.

## Flood Relief Latest

The new flood relief measures were put to the test this winter when heavy seas overwhelmed the shingle bank and once again flooded the Cley and Salthouse marshes. Thanks to the new sluices the bulk of the water was off the marsh within 24 hours, whereas in 1996 a similar storm took more than a week to clear from the marshes. The shingle bank has been naturally “re-profiled” for much of its length into a lower but much wider form, much like that which exists to the west of Cley beach. With luck the new profile will have time to consolidate before the next onslaught, but in any case it should now be proof against the sudden breaches that caused so much trouble in the past.

Not so lucky was the old Beach Café which was somewhat damaged by the storm – and half buried by the shingle. Fortunately the café lease had recently ended and the building was empty. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust took the view that there was no further use for the building and it was promptly demolished.

The opportunity was taken to remove a load of WW2 debris from the beach along with the remains of the café building leaving the beach in a much more pristine state. One would hardly recognise the place were it not for the shelter that is still there. It too was half buried but, when dug out by volunteers and contractors, was found to be essentially undamaged by the storm and needed only a few repairs to the roof to counter the effects of weather and vandals. Though the ownership of the shelter had been ceded to the NWT in 1986, the Parish Council agreed to pay for the repairs as part of its contribution to maintaining an asset of value to the whole community.

The roll-over of the shingle during the storm greatly reduced the car park area. The NWT has agreed to extend the car park to the south to compensate. This work should be finished in time for the summer.

## New Playground

As alluded to in last year’s report the equipment in the children’s play area behind the Village Hall was condemned as uninsurable. Living as we do in a society plagued by ambulance chasing lawyers and their litigious clients, having uninsured equipment, however sound it might seem, was too great a risk to expect the committee members or the trustees to accept, so the playground had to be closed.

Plans were drawn up for replacement equipment, orders placed, and fund-raising commenced. Thanks to the hard work of Jennifer Murray and Stewart Gowans and the generosity of Cley residents, both full- and part-time, past and present, the money (some £15,000 in round figures) was raised in double quick time, and the official reopening was marked by a reception on the 18 November. The Parish Council contributed £1,000, rather more than half of which came from the Alan Bristow bequest.

We now have a super new facility for young children to enjoy, though this does probably mean that plans for the Village Hall extension, and associated public toilet, will have to be put on hold for a while longer.

---

## Allotment News

The allotment gardens are thriving under the enthusiastic care of the Allotment Association. A few plots are still available to rent, and given the recent food price rises and possible future shortages, there has never been a better time to start growing your own.

Historically the Cley allotments have been very inexpensive, but rents are having to be raised to meet the demands of the landowners, starting last October, with another increase due in October 2011. Don’t let that put you off – they’ll still be good value for money. Besides, how can you put a monetary value on healthy exercise...

Proposed Meeting dates for 2008-9 (all Tuesdays)

6 May 2008  
10 June 2008  
1 July 2008  
9 September 2008  
7 October 2008  
4 November 2008  
2 December 2008  
6 January 2009  
3 February 2009  
3 March 2009  
7 April 2009

All meetings at 7pm in the Cley Social Club.

Minutes of the previous meeting are displayed on the Parish notice board outside Woodbury, High Street, Cley. Copies are also available at the meetings.

Precept for 2008-9 £7,000

District Council:  
01263 513811  
districtcouncil@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Cllr H Cordeaux  
01263 588213

County Council:  
08448 008020

Cllr J Perry-Warnes  
01263 821125

Holt Medical Centre:  
01263 712461

Flood Wardens’ co-ordinator:  
Tony Aberdein  
01263 741044