

Oxborough Parish Council:
Chairman's Report for Annual Parish Meeting 16 April 2025

The SAM 2 sign has had its white LED array replaced and it was paid for from Cllr. Fabian Eagle's, County Council, discretionary fund, for which we are very grateful.

The question of payments for electricity to the telephone box was resolved by Mr. David Watkins and the Clerk and thanks are due to them both for that. But, there is still a supply to the box which should be completely disconnected in the future.

The Parish Council precept demand was increased by 10%, or an overall increase of £355.95 for the year.

We took a contract with Nurture again this year, for the maintenance of the Village Green. But it has taken the form of a Service Level Agreement, rather than a contract on fixed terms. The contract has become much more expensive - partly as a result of inflation and the government's requirement for increased National Insurance contributions. Nurture have been asked to ensure that tree damage does not occur when they mow the grass.

I would like to thank those parishioners who have been cutting the Village Green hedge and mowing the verges.

Replacement of Mr. Mike Solomon's memorial bench is due to take place shortly and I have been in touch with his family on the matter.

Sadly, there have been two resignations from the Parish Council. The first was that of Cllr. Jackie Lambert, who will be much missed for having brought her great sense of humour and common sense to proceedings. The second has been that of our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Susan Hernandez, who has served the Parish for twenty-four years and deserves the thanks of the Parish for her long service and contribution to parish life in general.

For the AGM in May, we will be employing a locum Clerk, and in the meantime we will be seeking applicants for a permanent post. At this point, I need to thank Mr. Michael Craig for doing our internal audit once again.

We have also seen our Breckland Councillor, Ian Sherwood replaced by Cllr. Scott Hussey.

A note about devolution: Whichever form the the government decides it will take, it will almost certainly result in a hike in the precept. That is because there are moves afoot to make it mandatory for Town and Parish Clerks to have a Certificate in Local Council Administration (or be in training for the same) as a bare minimum of qualification.

David Hotchkin - Chairman of Oxborough Parish Council.