

THE CHARTER



BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Issue 20

March 2011

Mrs Jula Janney, Editor
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Not too late to apply to become a Beccles Town Councillor



Town Council Chambers—
Mayoral Seat

There is still time for you to enquire about becoming a Councillor for Beccles. In the four wards, Rigbourne, Centre, Common and Darby there will be 16 seats (4 in each ward) up for re-election, and as long as you fill the necessary requirements ie; you must be 18 years of age on the day of nomination. You must reside in the area you wish to stand OR own property or land within the area you wish to stand OR work in the area you wish to stand

OR live within 3 miles (as the crow flies) of the Parish Ward; you need to have your nomination signed by 2 people who are on the electoral register in the ward you wish to contest and you need to be a British subject, or an Irish Republic or European Union citizen living in the UK.

You should consider that being a Councillor is not a short-term occupation as it involves attending meetings, sometimes have to make difficult decisions sometimes, and allowing those who voted you in listening time. You will be elected for 4 years and are expected to take on certain responsibilities on committees or working parties.

If you have any queries you can log onto www.waveney.gov.uk and search for Councilors/elections.

A Notice of Election will be published in March on Parish notice boards and on the Councils' websites, giving the information required regarding application.

Nominations papers can be collected approximately 5 weeks before the election (or sent through the post) from The Elections Officer, Waveney District Council, Town Hall, High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1HS (01502 523238—electoralregistration@waveney.gov.uk)



Special points of interest:

- BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR 2011-2015
- YOUR TOWN PLAN—QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE RETURNED
- BECCLES LAND TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITY COMMISSION
- BECCLES COMMON—ISSUES AFFECTING ENJOYMENT
- VOLUNTEER FOR EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE

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TOWN PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Beccles is without a Town Plan and to enable the Council to undertake this task, the help of the community is paramount. Inserted in this newsletter you will find a questionnaire which should be filled in, along with any comments, and returned to the Town Hall. Your input in this pro-

ject is of great importance as the Town Plan cannot be produced without a public consultation reaching out for your thoughts and views of your town. The aim of the plan is to examine the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting the Town. What facilities could or should be

available and what sort of environment you expect for yourselves and your families? With the current trend for cutting key services and the present financial situation, a Town Plan is more important than ever to keep Beccles the attractive, friendly, safe town we all know and love.

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Views of Beccles Common



ON 27TH MARCH ALL RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE UK WILL BE TAKING PART IN A CENSUS.

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS IMPORTANT AS SUFFOLK POPULATION RATES WILL REFLECT DIRECTLY THE FUNDING SUFFOLK RECEIVES FOR SERVICES WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT.

PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SUFFOLK NEEDS YOUR CO-OPERATION.

Seagulls - As the nesting season approaches would you consider putting food out in special containers so that the gulls cannot access them which encourages them to nest in the Town.

ISSUES WHICH COULD SPOIL YOUR ENJOYMENT OF BECCLES COMMON

Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit! These cute little creatures are slowly eroding the common from underneath and need to be dealt with in the near future. The Town Council are currently considering ways and means to cull the rabbits which are causing mayhem both on the Common and the allotments.

Cars! Over the Winter months cars have been having a great time speeding over the Common causing damage by skidding and possibly driving dangerously. The driving of vehicles on the Common is an offence unless authorised by the Town Council. The Police have been informed and cul-

prits will be dealt with accordingly.

Damage to Greens! Some people seem to enjoy damaging the greens cared for by Beccles Golf Club. The greens are the best kept in the County and it is a pity that some do not appreciate the time and effort the Green Keeper puts in keeping them at this very high standard. Currently someone is making 'heel marks' around the pins on these greens. The Council have been advised of a suspect and therefore the Police have been informed and a close eye is being kept. If the perpetrator is seen, proceedings against him will follow.

Damage to Trees! Someone is entering The Common from the bypass and cutting branches from the trees and taking them away, presumably for firewood. They are causing environmental damage and are guilty of theft. The Police have been made aware of this and are keeping the area under surveillance. Can we ask all Common users to keep their eyes open and report the vehicle registration number to the Police. The Council will prosecute the person when they are caught! If you have witnessed anyone acting irresponsibly on the Common, please contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01473 613500.

BECCLES FENLAND CHARITY TRUST

Beccles Town Council is the registered owner, on behalf of the citizens of Beccles, of some 746 acres of land. This land brings in an annual income in excess of £30,000 and forms approximately one third of the income of the Town Council. Each year the Council spends some £60,000 on various local expenditure described as being for 'public benefit'.

The Town Council received a letter from the Charity Commission (CC) at the end of November 2008 indicating that the above land was deemed to be charity land and therefore should be registered as such with the CC. It appears that the land was granted under a Royal Charter issued in 1605 during the reign of James I. The Council responded indicating that they needed to do extensive research and would require advice.

In February 2009, two representatives from the CC visited the Council and a complex and prolonged discussion took place,

clarifying some aspects, but leaving many issues unanswered. Both parties agreed that further research would be required. The Town Council agreed to set up a Working Party to explore the various issues.

The Working Party met for some eleven occasions over the next fifteen months. In May 2010, the Chairman of the Working Party travelled to London to meet a representative of the CC, who was extremely helpful and indicated that he could see no reason why the Town Council should not be recognized as the Sole Trustee of the charity.

The next task was to draw up the Governing Document, which would in reality be the constitution of the charity. This task took several meetings, but eventually a draft was forwarded to the CC for their opinion of its accuracy and coverage. A prolonged period followed as the document was forwarded to the legal department of the CC for their opinion. It emerged from

this research that the Charter granted in 1605 was recognized as a Governing Document and this meant the Town Council would be required to draw up the "byelaws" under which the Charity would operate. The Working Party then went ahead and drew up the required "byelaws" which were approved by the CC.

The next step was for the full Town Council to approve and adopt the "byelaws". A special meeting was held on Monday 24th January to put this proposal before Council to which the public were invited, where the proposal to adopt the "byelaws" were discussed and approved.

The next stage was to register the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust with the CC.

It is the hope of the Town Council that all the final details will be completed by 31st March 2011 thus allowing the related accounting procedure to commence in the new financial year.



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR BECCLES RAILWAY STATION

Chris Maddison has undertaken the position of a Station Adopter. In order to manage the project, he is looking for volunteers to come forward to work to clear the Island Platform. Initially this project was started some months ago, so those who have already shown an interest would be more than welcome. Once the fence is in place plans will be made to enhance the station ready for the changes in the pipeline for the Beccles Loop.

To contact Chris call 01502 715970

Beccles Sea Cadets

Beccles Sea Cadets are currently fund-raising for major works to their Unit in Fen Lane, Beccles. Mrs Loraine Loftstadt is offering to give talks for a nominal fee. on 'The Life of A Sea Cadet' to anybody with an interest in this enterprising organisation, and with youth facilities. The talk lasts approximately 30 minutes and consists of humorous antics and information on what goes on with the Beccles Sea Cadets from the basic running of the unit to their trips and achievements.

Please call 01502 572369 to book a talk.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

During the weekend of 10-12th June 2011 the Royal British Legion, Beccles Branch, will be celebrating with other groups across the country the 90th Anniversary of the forming of the Association in 1923. The RBL hope to organise this in conjunction with Beccles Town Council and other local organisations and propose to stage an open air dance with a big band and other performers. Good old fashioned fireworks are planned as a finale.

If you want to help, please telephone 01502 712109 for more information.



Beccles Antique Street Market SUNDAY 1ST MAY 2011

Once again the central streets of Beccles will be filled with bargain hunters as the 3rd Annual Beccles Antique Street Market is staged. Over 65 antique dealers will be offering a wide variety of wares including jewellery, china, silver, furniture, linen, books, vintage clothing and much more. Hot and cold refreshments available including a Suffolk Hog Roast and many of the local shops will be open on the day. The market runs from 8am until 4.30pm.

For further details contact Kate Lee on 01502 711174.

VOLUNTEERS FOR EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE



Did you make any New Year's Resolutions this year? Want to do something really amazing, then why not volunteer with the East Anglian Air Ambulance? Volunteers have been active at the EAAA since 2000, helping to get where they are today. From fundraising to medical care, loyal volunteers have contributed their time and talent generously to this essential emergency service. In turn, volunteers learn new skills and form friendships whilst knowing that the work they do really SAVES LIVES! The EAAA run two fully medically equipped helicopters (code-names 'Anglia One' and 'Anglia Two') serving the people of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire seven days a week, 365 days a year. Between the two helicopters they are able to provide a life-saving resource reaching patients quickly and, if required, transporting them to hospital within minutes. To keep flying £4.2 million has to be raised every year. No direct Government funding or National Lottery funding to help, on-going public support is essential. For more information call 0845 669 999.

They need you today—You may need them tomorrow!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND HELP PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME? HOLD A FISH N CHIP SUPPER TO HELP SPINAL CORD INJURED PEOPLE ON FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2011 HOLD IT IN YOUR OWN HOME, AT WORK OR COMMUNITY CENTRE. FOR MORE INFO CALL ELIZABETH WRIGHT ON 0845 6786633 EXT 229 OR EMAIL FISHANDCHIPS@SPINAL.CO.UK

THE FUTURE OF BECCLES LIBRARY

You may be aware, through the local (and national) press, radio and TV, that Suffolk County Council is proposing to 'divest' all of its' 44 libraries, including Beccles. Libraries need to cost SCC at least 30% less within the next three years and beyond. Beccles Library offers services to you from book borrowing, free internet, family playtime, free computer classes at all levels, adult learning, book discussion

groups, craft sessions, local information and much, much more. If you use and value these services provided, and are concerned if they become drastically altered, you are being given a chance to 'Have Your Say' and engage with SCC's proposal through it's 'Consultation Document' questionnaire at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/librariesconsultation2011> which runs until 30th April. Following its findings it will go

to full cabinet in July. The library staff are passionate about their work and are proud of the positive contribution they make to the community in and around Beccles. You can join the library for free by producing ID and with daily opening (and selected evenings) times, they will always welcome you. Stephen Amer, Library Manager

Beccles Town Council will be holding Grant Committee meetings in February, June and October 2011 to look at applications from local organisations who would like support for projects currently in the pipeline. An application form can be collected from the Town Hall or downloaded from www.beccles.info

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BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Claire Boyne, Town Clerk
Mrs Jula Janney, Deputy
Beccles Town Council
The Walk
BECCLES
NR34 9AJ

Phone: 01502 712109
E-mail: admin@beccles.info



Remember Barsham Fayre in the 1970's?

COUNCILLOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

COUNCILLOR	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>CENTRE</u>		
<i>Peck, D W</i>	<i>8 Waveney Road, Beccles NR34 9NW</i>	<i>01502 712627</i>
<i>Richardson, C</i>	<i>12 South Close, Beccles NR34 9PB</i>	<i>01502 719744</i>
<i>Scott, C J</i>	<i>3 Firfield Close, Beccles NR34 9YE</i>	<i>01502 714831</i>
<i>Woodruff, B</i>	<i>13 Meadow Gardens, Beccles NR34 9PA</i>	<i>01502 713053</i>
<u>COMMON</u>		
<i>Bubb, Mrs S</i>	<i>'Greenacres' Clarke's Lane, Barsham NR34 8HN</i>	<i>01502 713314</i>
<i>Doherty, M F</i>	<i>4 Kilbrack, Beccles NR34 9SH</i>	<i>01502 716324</i>
<i>Featherstone, Miss J</i>	<i>6 Old Farm Road, Beccles NR34 9RW</i>	<i>01502 715606</i>
<i>Smith, D M</i>	<i>14 Station Road, Beccles NR34 9QJ</i>	<i>01502 718018</i>
<u>RIGBOURNE</u>		
<i>Catchpole, G</i>	<i>32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ</i>	<i>01502 715819</i>
<i>Thwaites, A (Deputy)</i>	<i>20 South Road, Beccles NR34 9NY</i>	<i>01502 714161</i>
<i>Topping, Mrs C</i>	<i>7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JG</i>	<i>01502 717276</i>
<u>DARBY</u>		
<i>Harris, J D</i>	<i>26 Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TT</i>	<i>01502 717237</i>
<i>Sigsworth, J</i>	<i>14 Janet Hadenham Close, Worlingham NR34 7SL</i>	<i>01502 711473</i>
<i>Taylor, B (Mayor)</i>	<i>2 Fairfax Court, Beccles NR34 9XG</i>	<i>01502 713307</i>
<i>Walmsley, J</i>	<i>37 Kemp's Lane, Beccles N34 9XB</i>	<i>01502 717853</i>

**BECCLES—THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE
BY BERENICE BROOM (FROM ISSUE 19)**

Beccles Town Council, through the efforts of the then Town Clerk, Mrs B Broom, achieved Quality Parish Status in 2010. Whilst this does not bring finance into the town, it gives kudos with other councils and larger organisations. The duties of a Town Clerk and staff are not always cut and dried, nor is the work dull. We act as directory enquiries when people can't find telephone numbers, guides for hotels and B&Bs, unofficial map readers and restaurant critics, finders of lost relatives, town guides and general fountains of all knowledge of Beccles and beyond! The Town Clerk is also responsible for preparing the accounts for the Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd and dealing with any legalities of the Charity Commission in relation to it. The Diamond Jubilee Aid in Sickness Fund is also clerked by the Town Clerk who deals with all the formalities, the accounts. About half of the funding for administering council functions comes from the precept, which is

a tax on the residents of Beccles through Waveney District Council. The rest of the funding comes from land and property rents, bank interest and dividends, although this last revenue has fallen over the last year. Council uses the funds for administration and salaries, maintenance of the Common, The Avenue, the marsh pump (+ electricity charges), the dykes and marshes, the skateboard park and supply grants to local organisations. All expenditure has to be budgeted for and is approved by full council before anything is spent. The Marsh Trail is maintained, as is the Town Hall and other properties, including the Christmas Lights together with a grant to the Christmas Late Night Shopping event.

The Pride in Beccles team benefits from funds to enable enhancements to the Town, such as the shelter refurbishment and the five new town signs, the first of which was first instigated by Dr Wood-Hill who was Mayor of

the Borough of Beccles from 1935 to 1938. He was the only Mayor who was ever elected and was not elected as a Councillor.

'Mr Tidy' is funded through the Council with help from some organisations and businesses. His role is to keep the town centre clean and weed-free. Since being employed by the Council he has attained a spraying certificate in the safe use of pesticides. Although his role is primarily in the town centre, he can often be seen following requests, clearing and cleaning other areas of the town where Waveney do not fulfill their obligations.

As you may have guessed from one or two comments, the Town Council does not always see eye to eye with the District Council. The Town Council feels that Waveney has neglected its duties in the town, especially with regard to property it took over in 1974, eg the outdoor pool, the public hall, the Quay, etc. Relationships have improved some-

what over the last year or so, but the Town Council still feels that the District Council pay lip service somewhat. Quarterly meetings between the Town Clerk/ Deputy Town Clerk and the Chief Executive Officer of Waveney and other Officers to discuss problems which Council feels need addressing help, to some extent, and Clerks from other local Parishes also attend these meetings, so it is a step forward for communication.

FUTURE— Hopes for the future—who knows what that holds. The Boundary Commission and the Local Government Review were all for removing Waveney from the bosom of Suffolk and moving it to Norfolk. Other Councils were up in arms about the diverse suggestions of boundaries. Everyone had an interest and everyone was informed, costing Councils hundreds of thousands of pounds for all the research.

Contd in the June issue.