Chair's report for the year

Greetings and welcome everyone. I am very happy to say that it has been a relatively uneventful year for us here in Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham & Ellough. As reported last year, the NDP passed the referendum stage and was subsequently 'made' by ESC at a meeting in June 2023, giving it full status when considering planning applications, both new and those initially submitted before the referendum but awaiting consideration.

We continue to enjoy a constructive and open dialogue with our Council representatives on ESC – Cllrs. Speca and Hammond and with our County Councillor Judy Cloke.

On a sadder note, 2023 saw the passing of former Cllr. Ted Potter after a long illness with cancer. Cllr. Potter made an enormous contribution to our community, both as a Councillor and also as the lead member of the NDP committee. The NDP has been widely acknowledged to be an excellent example of its kind and will stand as a lasting tribute to Cllr. Potter and the rest of the NDP team.

On a happier note, in May last year we welcomed Andy Thornton to the Council. Andy has brought a new enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the Council, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Our twice yearly litter picks continue, and thanks go to Cllr. Chipperfield and Sotterley Estate staff for organising posters, distributing equipment and disposal of the rubbish collected. Thanks are also due to Cllr. Chipperfield for her monthly contributions to the Sheaf magazine on our behalf.

The bulbs we received for planting throughout the villages were received and put into the ground last autumn and gave some fabulous colour in both Shadingfield and Ellough.

The thermal imaging camera initiative at the end of last year has been of benefit to many of us and it would be good if that can be repeated later in 2024.

We have not spent our budget for grants and donations this year so if any of you have any thoughts on local projects, groups or initiatives that might be deserving of our support, do let Steve know so he can put it on the agenda for consideration.

The issues around the lease for the playing field remain unresolved, although there has been some progress made with Sotterley Estate. Also, the legal action to recover

the monies paid for the faulty SIDs is ongoing, but we may see resolution on both these matters in the future.

As you will no doubt be aware by now, I have decided to step down as Chair of this Parish Council. After 6 years, I think I've done all I can and our residents deserve some fresh ideas and enthusiasm. It has been an honour to feel I've contributed in some way to maintaining and, I hope, improving our community. It didn't always pan out as I expected, and it's been an eventful 'ride', albeit a bit 'white-knuckle'at times. Sincere thanks go to my fellow Councillors, past and present, for their support, and our former Clerk Marie Allen who stepped in at short notice when we were in dire need.

Last, but not least, my thanks again to our Clerk, Steve Blackburn, who has been an invaluable support and asset again over the past 12 months. I don't know how long we can keep him for, but I am confident that with his support the transition to a new Chair will be smooth and seamless.

That's all folks!

Caroline 'Cally' Ellis
Chair, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham & Ellough jt. Parish Council

Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Joint Parish Council
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2022/23 General Fund	*General Fund Budget*	General Fund	Earmarked	Total
RECEIPTS					
Precept	*7,410*	*7,500*	7,500.00	500.00	8,000.00
Cemetery Fees	*1,000*		100.00	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Income	*1,850*		512.00	0.00	512.00
VAT Recovered	*419*	*1,427*	1,427.22	0.00	1,427.22
TOTAL RECEIPTS	***10,679***	***8,927***	**9,539.22**	**500.00**	**10,039.22**
PAYMENTS					
Administration					
Staff Costs	*4,842*	*5,000*	5,285.00	0.00	5,285.00
Payroll Costs	*90*	*105*	45.00	0.00	45.00
Mileage	*139*	*220*	131.40	0.00	131.40
Printing Stationery & Postage	*85*	*120*	131.35	99.50	230.85
Insurance	*575*	*600*	579.03	0.00	579.03
Hall Hire	*138*	*210*	146.00	0.00	146.00
Web Hosting	*50*	*55*	50.00	0.00	50.00
Membership & Subscriptions	*479*	*450*	344.65	0.00	344.65
Audit	*161*	*180*	216.00	0.00	216.00
Data Protection	*35*	*35*	35.00	0.00	35.00
Training	*338*	*100*	60.00	0.00	60.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	*0*		108.71	0.00	108.71
VAT Paid	*1,422*		391.95	0.00	391.95
	8,354	***7,125***	**7,524.09**	**99.50**	**7,623.59**
Maintenance					
Playing Field Maintenance	*1,574*	*1,238*	923.90	0.00	923.90
Notice Board Repairs	*490*	*400*	0.00	0.00	0.00
Playground Inspection	*65*	*80*	65.00	0.00	65.00
Bin Emptying	*40*	*50*	39.96	0.00	39.96
Cemetery Management	*440*	*500*	512.00	0.00	512.00
General Maintenance		*400*	475.00	0.00	475.00
Vehicle Sign	*4,360*		260.14	0.00	260.14
	6,969	***2,668***	**2,276.00**	**0.00**	**2,276.00**
Community Events					
Grants and Donations	*500*	*1,000*	0.00	0.00	0.00
Earmarked Funds – Payments				975	0.00
	737	***1,000***	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
TOTAL PAYMENTS	***16,059***	***10,793***	**9,800.09**	**99.50**	**9,899.59**
Surplus (-Deficit) to date	***-5,380***	***-1,866***	**-260.87**	**400.50**	**139.63**
Brought Forward 1.4.2023	*11,516*		5,135.61	9,466.02	14,601.63
Special Fund Ellough Village Sign	*-1,000*				
Surplus/Deficit	*-5,380*		-260.87	400.50	139.63
Carried Forward	***5,136***		**4,874.74**	**9,866.52**	**14,741.26**
Lloyds Bank Current Account					**14,741.26**

Notes to the accounts

Miscellaneous Income: Contributions to shed repair and new cycle rack from SCPT £512.00,

VAT: VAT recovered (£1,427.22) is higher due to the payment for speed indicator devices during 2022-23

Staff Costs: The budget of £5,000 was exceeded as the financial year included a payment of tax to HMRC relating to the previous financial year.

Payroll costs: One of the two half-yearly payments was invoiced too late to be included.

Printing: The increased cost of printing etc is largely due to occasional purchases of printer ink.

Membership and Subscriptions: include Suffolk Association of Local Councils (£232.65), and the Society of Local Council Clerks (£112.00). A provision was made for a large increase for Suffolk ALC when they changed their method of calculation. In the end, this change was not as detrimental as originally thought.

Audit: The cost of the internal audit provided by Suffolk ALC was determined too late to be budgeted for. An increase in hours plus arrears for 2021/22

Maintenance: Grass cutting £828, a final invoice is still awaited, mole catcher £50, new signage £45.

Notice board: the new board at Shadingfield is under construction but not yet completed. No date is currently known.

Vehicle sign: Due to the failure of the new equipment, court action has commenced at a cost of £205.00 and searches £6.00; the loaned machine has been fitted with new batteries, £49.14.

Playing Field Costs:	
Grass cutting	986.24
Cemetery:	
New cycle rack (donated by Mrs Amanda Potter)	215.00
Repairs to shed	297.00

Funds earmarked for specific purposes:

In hand at 31.3.2024	
Playing Field	7,437.64
Shadingfield Luncheon Club Funds	433.38
Provision for new laptop	500.00
Ellough Village Sign	1,000.00
Picnic fund	495.50
	9,866.52

Steve Blackburn
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
April 2024