Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 20th May 2026

Report for the year ending April 2026

Welcome everyone to our Annual Parish Meeting. It has been an active but not overly dramatic year. We said goodbye to our Suffolk County Council representative, Cllr. Judy Cloke when she stood down at the recent elections. I personally and on behalf of this Council would like to thank her for her years of hard work and service in supporting this community and the others she represented. We welcome Cllr. Peter Aiano as our new representative on SCC and look forward to meeting him and working with him in the future.

Cllr Richard Ellis was elected as Chair of this Council and we thank him for all his work over the past year and we are happy he has agreed to stand for Chair again, despite being unable to attend this meeting due to work commitments. I am also content to remain as Vice Chair but equally willing to step aside if anyone else wants to step up.

We said goodbye to Cllr. Tracey Blunn in October as she had to step down owing to family illness and we thank her for her contributions over the years; she was a bold and vocal member of this Council and particularly helped us to understand the needs and obstacles facing our residents who have physical disabilities.

Sadly, we also said a goodbye of a more permanent nature to Cllr. Robbie London, who passed away in February following a long illness with cancer. Robbie was a bright and enthusiastic member of this council and I will miss her on both a personal level and as a positive and long standing resident of the village.

On the bright side, we welcomed Cllr. Karen Robson last month. From her introduction, Karen has an impressive background that we hope to benefit from with her particular skills and experience.

Other significant events this year have been the continuing debate on Devolution and restructuring of Local Government.

Also, following commencement of his duties maintaining the Cemetery at Sotterley Chapel, Mr. Waters has assumed maintenance of the Playing Field and the Vertas contract was cancelled.

No new bulbs were planted this year but previous years plantings continue to reward us in the spring and anyone with ideas or suggestions on how we can further enhance our village are encouraged to bring their suggestions to Council.

We brought our correspondence onto a more official level with each councillor and the Clerk adopting a dedicated .gov domain address.

The Parish of Sotterley were hosts to Folk East festival, which seemed to go well and we are happy to support and we thank the organisers for their support of our Village Fair. Last year's Village Fair was generally considered a success, raising £234 for the community and we plan to repeat the event on the 16th August this year. We pray the weather is as kind to us again as it was last year.

Finances are in a healthy condition and remain under monthly scrutiny and reconciliation.

On the planning front, two large scale applications that we opposed were considered again last year – there was an appeal against the decision to refuse the application for an Anaerobic digester in Ellough; thankfully, this was dismissed. Also, ESC reconsidered the application for Intensive Poultry Units in Shadingfield and voted to refuse the application.

We are seeing an increase in unauthorised development and will continue to bring this to the attention of the enforcement team at ESC as and when notified by our residents.

Thank you to all my fellow Councillors for keeping us up and running this year, fulfilling our obligations and despite our depleted numbers, never having (to date) to cancel a meeting owing to us failing to be quorate. Especially, thanks to Cllr. Drane for his management of online banking matters and his knowledge of the digital world to keep us up to date; to Cllr. Chipperfield for our monthly contributios to the Sheaf and organising the litter picks and taking on deliveries in Ellough, Cllr Thornton for managing the newsletter and carrying out the bulk of deliveries of them, Cllr. Ward for his knowledge of local government matters and liaison with local schools.

Lastly, a huge thank you to Vicki Ellis, our Clerk, for keeping us informed and in order. I know it's been a steep learning curve at times, but your calmness and determination have prevailed and we really couldn't do any of this without you. I hope you'll be with us for a long time to come. Let's crack on for another year.

As at 31st March 2026

	Budget		General Fund	All Earmarked	Total
RECEIPTS	2025/26				
Precept	10,100		10,100.00	0.00	10,100.00
Cemetery Fees	0		847.00	0.00	847.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	2,500		3,254.53	0.00	3,254.53
Picnic	0		234.70	0.00	234.70
Miscellaneous Income	0		0.00	0.00	0.00
Earmarked Funds - Receipts				0.00	0.00
VAT Recovered	570		601.22	0.00	601.22
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**13,170**		**15,037.45**	**0.00**	**15,037.45**
PAYMENTS					
Administration					
Staff Costs	5,950		5,764.67	0.00	5,764.67
Payroll Costs	100		135.00	0.00	135.00
Mileage	200		0.00	0.00	0.00
Printing Stationery & Postage	460		32.60	0.00	32.60
Insurance	701		766.89	0.00	766.89
Hall Hire	220		150.00	0.00	150.00
Web Hosting & Domain	290		344.00	0.00	344.00
Membership & Subscriptions	460		353.11	0.00	353.11
Audit	185		183.00	0.00	183.00
Laptop	0		0.00	0.00	0.00
Data Protection	35		47.00	0.00	47.00
Training	336		0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	0		0.00	0.00	0.00
VAT Paid	0		361.72	0.00	361.72
	8,937		**8,137.99**	**0.00**	**8,137.99**
Maintenance					
Playing Field Maintenance	1,500		1,354.80	0.00	1,354.80
Playing Field Improvement	0		0.00	0.00	0.00
Notice Board Repairs	0		0.00	0.00	0.00
Playground Inspection	70		0.00	0.00	0.00
Bin Emptying	55		0.00	0.00	0.00
Pest Control	200		0.00	0.00	0.00
Cemetery Management	950		370.00	0.00	370.00
General Maintenance	400		0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle Sign			0.00	0.00	0.00
	3,175		**1,724.80**	**0.00**	**1,724.80**
Community Events					
Raising the Parish Profile			30.00	0.00	30.00
Grants and Donations	1,000			0.00	
Earmarked Funds - Payments			644.25	0.00	644.25
	1,000		**674.25**	**0.00**	**674.25**
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**13,112**		**10,537.04**	**0.00**	**10,537.04**
Surplus (-Deficit) to date	**58**		**4,500.41**	**0.00**	**4,500.41**
Brought Forward 1.4.2025	6,242		2,292.97	9,366.52	11,650.49
Transfers between funds				0.00	0.00
				0.00	0.00
				0.00	0.00
				0.00	0.00
Surplus/Deficit	58		4,500.41	0.00	4,500.41
Carried Forward	**6,300**		**6,793.38**	**9,366.52**	**16,159.90**
Playing Field				**7,437.64**	
Luncheon Club				**433.38**	
Ellough Village Sign				**1,000.00**	
Picnic				**495.50**	
				9,366.52	

Recent Transactions		
Previous Bank		16,791.10
Credits		
Debits		
V. Ellis Salary March	-422.95	
SALC Payroll services 6 months	-54.00	
Service Charge Lloyds	-4.25	
C.Limb Treasuer Village Hall	-150.00	
		-631.20
Net Bank Account		16,159.90

Bank Reconciliation	
Lloyds Current Account Statement Balance	16,159.90
Add: unpresented credits	0.00
Less: unpresented items	0.00
Net balance	**16,159.90**
Difference	0.00

Chairman		
Clerk		
Date		