



PARISH COUNCIL

Campsea Ashe Parish Council
Chair Clare Reid

Clerk & RFO Klaus Fortmann

Tel: 01728 748196

Email: clerk@campseaashe-pc.gov.uk

www.campsea-ashe.suffolk.gov.uk

Chair's Report 2025/26

During 2024/25 the PC comprised of Clare Reid, Nigel Pringle, Felicity Gillott, Michele Dawson, Nicola Snell, with Klaus Fortmann as Clerk. John Jeffrey joined the PC during the year.

Ed Berger resigned early in the year, and we thank him for several years of engagement and his valued, level headed leadership in his final year as chair.

Thanks to all members and clerk for their contributions to meetings and ongoing email exchanges.

We also thank our ESC Cllr Sally Noble and former SCC Cllr A Nicoll for their helpful engagements in matters concerning CA. Cllr Nicoll was instrumental in helping to progress discussions with SCC and ESC about traffic and development impacts on Campsea Ashe.

The **financial situation** of the Parish improved due to monies received from Clarke & Simpson with regards to an easement (for waste drainage requirements) covering both the PC owned & the VH owned parts of the recreation ground. This enabled the PC to keep the Parish part of the Council Tax 26/27 unchanged. The PC though is aware that the ageing play equipment will require future expenditures that might result in having to increase the Council Tax (Parish part) to cover these upcoming costs. Grants were received from ESC for environmental activities by the Community Gardening initiative WAC.

HGV traffic on the wider road network continued to be pro-actively addressed by the **Joint Parish Traffic Initiative (JTPI)**, a group of Parish Councils including Campsea Ash, Marlesford, Melton, Bromswell, Eyke, Ufford, Snape and Sutton. During 25/26 JTPI members continued to engage with East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council representatives, in particular Chief Executive Officer of East Suffolk Council Chris Bally who has been sensitive to our concerns. The JTPI continued to argue for a better balance between the need for economic development and new homes, and our limited rural infrastructure, with the need for proper monitoring of HGV journeys to and from Bentwaters emphasised. Whilst the desired restrictions on ongoing developments on the base and surrounding have not been achieved,



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ESC has made a £1.5m fund available towards mitigation measures proposed by the member Parishes.

Campsea Ashe PC remains an affiliate of the East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA), with whom we share many concerns in relation to inappropriate development and associated traffic impacts.

The PC also was very pro-active with the **SizewellC** project, being part of a group of Parishes engaging regularly with SzC on traffic related matters. As a result of our interventions, the permanent traffic monitoring has now been widened to include the Melton-Snape corridor.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** project is not progressing, due to a lack of interest/available time by residents. Without relevant engagement, the NP will not progress. This is very unfortunate, especially as a new Local Plan and new Government guidelines in the National Planning Policy Framework has already resulted in increased development requests within our boundaries. Government funding for the NP is currently not clear and the PC has not have sufficient reserves to finance it themselves.

The Village Hall, chaired by Todd Strehlow is progressing with its renovation plans, and has again become a more active asset of the village. The PC continues to co-operate and to fully support the VH Committee (separate report by the chair)

Wild About Campsea (WAC) continued to thrive and the PC is continuing to donate a regular sum as part of our annual expenses. WAC will report on their activities separately.

Campsea Ashe Village Voice, now in its third year, a high-quality colour magazine is financed by the PC (and ESC for 2026) and continues to contain informative features, written by varying residents, but - most importantly - expertly managed and edited by Peter Marret.



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The PC dealt with several **Planning Issues** within the year;

1 The PC opposed the revised application of a Solar Farm in Loudham, as it was felt unnecessary to utilise farm land next to our exceptional Deben Valley habitat, with clear visual impacts on the landscape; if solar panels were mandated for new built homes, these schemes would not be necessary in such scale.

2 The 'Rectory Fields' development, opposed from the onset by the PC (density/scale/location) seems to have been stopped, apparently due to the current economic climate. However, the actual application is valid and could be revived at any point in time.

3 The feared impact of the changes in Government Housing Supply targets together with changes to regulations (including the new NPPF) seemed to have triggered a development proposal for 110 new homes in Campsea Ashe. The proposal has been met with fierce criticism by residents. The PC is co-ordinating with residents its response to the plans.

4 The ESC 'Call for Sites', which is a precursor for the Local Plan 2026, indicated worrying level of potential development in the village, which will require careful consideration by the Parish Council. As outlined above, residents and the PC will have to navigate carefully the changes in government regulations and targets. The proposed developments not just in the Village, but also in the neighbouring communities, will create immense negative impacts, as CA is on a 'primary' connecting road to the A12.

The ongoing **Chantry Close** adverse possession claim has not progressed, and will require some financial expenditure to get on the way.

The PC again actively supported local organisation, with financial support given to the Heritage Group and Wild About Campsea, as well as Leiston Citizen Advice Bureau.



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We offer our special thanks to:

Peter Marrett, who's engagement in village matters has again been extraordinary.

Bob and Rosamund @ Station House, for providing the PC with a brilliant meeting room, and for their contribution to PC meetings.

Todd Strehlow & the VH Committee, for their engagement in looking after an important village asset and bringing activities to our community.

And again to our councillors, retired SCC Cllr Alexander Nicolls for his long commitment to the PC, especially on issues concerning traffic impacts & ESC Councillor Sally Noble, for her support of many of our activities;

And last not least - Derek Balaam for continuing to look after the Playground.

Clare Reid 19.5.26

Chair Campsea Ashe Parish Council.