

The Council has held its public meetings in alternate months throughout the year with an additional financial reporting meeting in June. The Council has been at full strength and there have been no changes in personnel during the year.

The main highlight of the year has been the improvements at Pedham Green, with Broadland District Council funding for new play equipment and the provision of two picnic tables. A new sensory planter has also been installed, using Pedham community funds. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to utilize the surplus gym equipment acquired from the PTA of Hemblington School but this has been given to Acle Parish Council. Work has continued on village information boards, with the design now finalized, and subject the costings and funding, these will hopefully be installed by the Autumn. The Council's proposed bid to the Parish Partnerships scheme for highways improvements to fund a trod for a small section of Pedham Road, could not be taken further owing to its prohibitive cost. Instead, a pedestrian warning sign will be installed, kindly funded by County Councillor Fran Whymark's member's highway allowance. As part of its ordinary business, the Council has scrutinized a number of local Broadland planning applications. Finally, in a relatively uneventful year, a second RNR (Roadside Nature Reserve) has been created near the junction of Church Lane and Hemblington Hall Road.

The regular expenditure of the Council is funded by the parish precept. This will remain at the same level as in 2023/24 and 2024/25 at £3900. This should be sufficient to allow the Council to balance its books in the current year, without calling on reserves. From these funds, the Council has continued its annual £500 contribution to the upkeep of the parish churchyard.

I would like to thank Steven Ford for continuing his invaluable work as Parish Clerk, ensuring the smooth conduct of the Council's business. I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors and the County and District Councillors for their commitment and support during this year.

Anthony Howe

19 May 2025