

## **Rendham Parish Council Chairman's Report May 2026**

As I prepare this year's Chairman's report, it is evident that the area is experiencing significant change due to the Sizewell C infrastructure projects, which have brought increased traffic and personnel and led to ongoing road disruptions. These developments present both logistical challenges and opportunities for our community. By the time of our next meeting, local elections will have concluded, ushering in a new phase with additional challenges and prospects.

Following Roger Bennion's departure from the council, Jan Dabrowski has been co-opted as a new member. I extend a warm welcome to her and look forward to her contributions.

Mary Gregory remains our neighbourhood watch coordinator and has consistently provided valuable updates on matters affecting the community.

The new Bank of Scotland account is now fully operational. While there are minor issues to be resolved, it is functioning effectively overall.

Last year, we maintained the annual precept at the same level as 2024. However, after reviewing anticipated expenditures, reserves, and projected income, Councillors have agreed to approve an updated precept of £4094.00. This increase reflects the realities of inflation, rising service costs, and evolving community needs.

The Council contributed towards a gift for Helen Greenburgh, who recently stepped down after more than ten years of voluntary service editing and compiling The Street newsletter. We sincerely thank her for her dedication over the years. John Carrington again served as independent reviewer of the Parish Council accounts on a voluntary basis.

Throughout the year, the Council addressed various planning applications, highway concerns within the village, and reviewed reports from Local Government representatives. We have raised issues regarding accidents and fatalities at the A12/Rendham Road Junction with our District Councillor and Suffolk Highways, and discussions are ongoing.

Regular updates from both District and County Councillors have been received and discussed, with copies available on the village website.

The PARK Committee continues to manage the playing field, and is actively fundraising for new facilities, and maintenance of existing equipment. The boules court remains popular, and improvements to pathways are in progress, supported by a grant from Suffolk County Council.

Rendham Green is showing signs of maturation, and footpaths are being regularly used. The spring bulb planting on Knoll has resulted in another impressive display of daffodils.

A licence was obtained for an additional dog waste bin at the end of Sandy Lane, which has now been installed. It has already been noticed as well used by dog owners, helping to keep the area cleaner. The Council is also reviewing the potential installation of grit bins in the more challenging parts of the village.

I would like to acknowledge the fete committee for their continued efforts in organising the annual village fete, which has become a well-established tradition.

In closing, I express my gratitude to fellow Councillors for their support over the past twelve months and extend special thanks to our parish clerk Dana Brice for her invaluable expertise, assistance, and guidance.

Councillor David Willett

Chairman, Rendham Parish Council