

It's been an interesting year and that's seen the village come together, united over our concerns regarding the planned new housing development. The CPC has been the focal point for village on our response to the call for sites proposal. We have refreshed our neighbourhood plan, separating from Brettenham and Kilverstone and focused specifically on our parish. Our presentation day to the parish was well attended with lots of feedback received and allowing the whole parish to have an impact. A copy of the draft is on public display in the phone box. We submitted a robust response to the call for sites and is currently in the review phase. I would like to thank Councillor Vick who has been instrumental on this and other matters.

The clock does not seem in such a poor condition as we were led to believe. Subsequent inspections revealed fewer actual faults than were first reported. There was a base service and lubrication performed on the mechanism and it is now working again. There is a problem with the face of the clock and the hands which is being investigated and a plan put in place to repair it. Again, I thank Councillor Vicik, who along with Chris Wright and Nick Manderfield were busy in resolving this issue.

The PC finances are in a strong position, as you will hear later, and this has allowed us to support the replacement of the climbing frame and slide. The cost of this is supported by a Breckland Council Grant and generous donations from the Village Hall, CDHCT and the Social Club. The new equipment is planned to be in place ahead of the Summer Function in June.

We were sad to see Councillor Goucher leave the PC and understand her reasons. We were fortunate, however, that Jim Mockford was keen to join us, and has since been co-opted after due process. We are also sad to be losing Councillor Poor, who after many years serving and supporting the village, will be stepping down at the next Annual Parishioners Meeting to enjoy an already quite active retirement. We will start the recruitment process later in the year and welcome all applicants.

I would like also thank my fellow councillors who have worked so hard for us all and who have supported me as Chair. I would like to thank our clerk, Romy, for her tireless efforts and agreeing to stay on as clerk, even joining us remotely on occasion.

Finally, I would like to thank the Social Club for allowing us to meet there to support the Village Hall bookings, and we are reviewing our options for the forthcoming year.

Thank you.

Paul Dauny
Chair, Croxton Parish Council
14th May 2026