

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 25/04/2023

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. As always your Parish Council has been kept busy dealing with issues as they arise which includes checking planning applications and this year there has been 65 on the planning portal for Harling. A number have been for tree works and the remainder have been for extensions or new dwellings and if necessary site visits have taken place before our observations are sent to Breckland.

Warm Hub.

Set up by the Parish Council and now been renamed as The Welcome Hub and has been enjoyed by many, it needs 5 volunteers to run it every Monday offering hot drinks, cakes a variety of soups and bread rolls at no cost to those attending as it is funded by a grant and donations. My thanks go to the small team of volunteers for keeping it running.

Speed Watch.

This continues to be very effective in reducing the speed of traffic particularly in the 20mph area through Market Street. It is in need of more members of the team to keep it running so my thanks to the small number of volunteers for carrying out this important work for everyone's safety.

Street Lights.

It has been an expensive year not only the phased upgrade of redundant light fittings but also the renewal of 8 concrete light columns which have passed their safe life with 1 still to be done. The energy cost for the 101 street lights the Parish Council own has not increased as our fixed price contract is valid until May next year.

Community Garden.

This is now coming to life after the late frosts and will soon be a picture of colour with an ongoing plan of more plants and ideas . More volunteers would be welcomed. My thanks to the very small team of 3 Ladies and 1 Man that work on it. Thanks also to Forest Holidays for trimming the river banks.

Memorial Green.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank David Boggia for cleaning the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Sunday last year and also for

cleaning and varnishing the Millennium bench and the Boggia family for providing a new bench in memory of their late Brother Peter.

Phase 3.

The construction works are moving at quite a pace with some ready for roofs etc. The Parish Council agree to take on the maintenance and upkeep of the open public and play areas. Our costs for this will be fully covered by funding from Abel Homes. In addition, when moving the 30mph signs on Quidenham Road the have agreed to install traffic gates similar to those on Garboldisham Road.

Major Tasks Completed.

A new safer entrance approved by Highways to the cemetery and hard surfacing to the car park area has been completed and hedging planted to fill the old entrance. Paved bike park, seating, litter bin and planters created in the corner of Market Square at no cost to the Parish Council, funded by S106 grant and a small grant from the Co-Op. Thank you Holly and Steven for the design work on this and for your continuing work on further enhancement along the front of the Square.

Civility Pledge.

In February this year the Council adopted the Civility and Respect Pledge.

LCAS Award.

Late last year the Parish Council was awarded the 1st tier of the LCAS Quality Award which confirms that the Parish Council is operating in all matters to a very high standard. Our Clerk Kate is currently working on achieving the next level but has an immense amount of work still to do to achieve this.

Events.

Coronation Event.

Sunday 7th. May will see an event on the Recreation Ground to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111. This has been organised by Kate on behalf of the Parish Council, this will be a fun day for families of all ages and every child attending will be given a packet of wildflower seeds. This event is funded entirely by grants from local businesses.

F.O.P Awards

This will take place on 8th September and nominations from residents for recipients of the award to the Clerk Kate please. The short list for the 2 recipients is decided by the previous winners and not the Parish Council.

Action Plan.

As funds allow, residents meet and greet (early summer), full Council training, information/history board, Chapel refurbishment, traffic gates church road. More allotments on Garboldisham Road.

My thanks to my Council colleagues for their commitment and work on behalf of the Parish during this past year and I'm pleased to announce that all 11 Council Members have been re-elected for the next 4 years.

On behalf of the Parish Council a thank you to our District Councillor William Nunn and our County Councillor Steven Askew for the help and advice they have given us.

Again on behalf of the Parish Council sincere thanks to our Groundsmen Brett Allan and Rod Plumb for grounds maintenance and keeping the middle of the village tidy also for planting the 100 trees and hedging shrubs around land owned by the Parish. Of course, not forgetting our Clerk, RFO and Proper Officer for the advice and guidance Kate given us all. Her work load seems to increase every year but Kate continues to fulfil her role in a truly exemplary manner, so Kate a very sincere thank you from myself and your Parish Councillors and the residents of the Parish.

Philip Edge

Chairman

25/04/2023