

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 23/04/2019

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting, Yet again another busy year for your Councillors not only dealing with the day to day issues as they arise but also more concerning issues relating to planning matters which will shape the future of our village. As promised at the Public Forums held in this hall the Parish Council stated that we would oppose both the Kenninghall Road and the Lopham/Garboldisham Road applications vigorously and to the best of our ability, this we have done and I'm sure many of you are aware that the Kenninghall Road application appeal was dismissed. The Lopham/Garboldisham Road application has been deferred until possibly early June and hopefully there will be a further consultation period, please be assured that at the present time we have done everything in our power to oppose this housing estate. This I think will be a uphill struggle on several counts 1/ Brecklands 5 year land supply, 2/ Brecklands emerging plan where it states that we have to accept 85 dwellings up to 2035 has not yet received approval, 3/ Gladmans Heads of Terms (S106) payments from developers if the site gains approval for infrastructure etc £1.6 million.

HGV weight restriction.

The 18-44 tonne weight limit trial has now been in force for 12 months and hopefully will be made permanent in November, it has reduced greatly the no's coming through the village and at the moment is around the volume that Highways and we hoped for.

Speed Watch.

Again our Community speed watch continues to be a success in not only slowing the traffic but also catching a considerable no. who have no regard for speed limits of any kind. Only last week in 1 hour 28 were recorded exceeding the 20mph limit in Market Street. We are again looking for volunteers to help us to carry on this vital role. My thanks to Tony Long for organising the weekly monitoring and to the volunteers who turn out when called on to assist.

Street Lights

Last year I spoke about the need to replace many of our old lights with LED fittings, the list of redundant lights seems to grow steadily and as they cease to function they will be replaced, in the meantime we have a rolling scheme in place updating several at a time in order to stay ahead and hopefully prevent complete failures.

Planters Peppers Corner.

These were put in place after long discussions and deliberations by the Parish Council on its duty of care to make the area around the seat safer from both parked cars in front of the seat but also from cars driving at speed mounting the footpath by the hairdressers with no regard to the safety of people sitting or standing in that area.

Riverside

This year has seen the transformation of the area by the river in between the two bridges which was completely overgrown with brambles and nettles, these have all been cleared, daffodils planted along the roadside railings and wildflower seeds scattered on the cleared banks. In addition the outlet of the River Wittle has been cleared of years of silt, It is probably 40 years since any water from the Wittle joined the River Thet at this point and it would be good to see the stream running free again. I would like to convey my thanks to Brian Copping who came up with the idea of enhancing this area and to John Boggia, Ray Copping, Graham Jubb, Steve Halsey, Kate Filby and Malcolm Kemp who all teamed up and worked alongside Brian to bring the project to fruition.

Freedom of the Parish.

On the 5th. April, we held our 3rd. Freedom of the Parish Award evening which again was a great success. My thanks go to those who sent in nominations, the Parish Council Sub-Committee for collating them and deciding on the recipients and to Kate for organising the whole evening. I would also like to place on record my thanks to the Ladies from the Hall Management Committee for their help with the hall layout and the catering for the evening.

I would like now to place on record my thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors for their commitment and support they have given again this year.

My thanks to DC Robert Kybird who has moved on to another Parish, My thanks also go to our two Groundsmen Brett Allen and Barry Holmes for keeping so many of the areas of the village up to a very high standard, Barry is not to well at the moment and we wish him a speedy recovery.

And of course, not forgetting our Parish Clerk Kate who year on year copes with an ever-increasing workload, keeping the Council up to date with all matters and keeping myself up to date on issues daily and sometimes hourly. As a Parish Council we are privileged and lucky to have Kate as our Clerk with her commitment not only to the Parish Council but also to the village that we all enjoy.

Now on a personal note in the 30 years I have been Chairman this year has provided me with two highlights, the first having campaigned for all those years, seeing the ban on large HGVs through the village and secondly the invitation initiated by Kate to join HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall to celebrate Prince Charles 70th Birthday in London, a truly memorable day.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for allowing me to serve as their Chairman for the past year.

Philip Edge

Chairman

23/04/19