

**FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
125th Annual Assembly – Friday 29th May 2020**

Introduction & Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for contributing their personal time without remuneration during this period, and for diligently dealing with the many issues brought before them during the year. My thanks also go to District and County Councillors, and those Parishioners who have supported the Parish during this period.

During the current period we received 3 resignations from Cllr Bob Henderson and Cllr Colin Saunderson and Sally Lee as Lay Chair of the Burial Board. We wish them well and thank them for their valuable services during their time serving the community.

We secured the services of 1 new Cllr Susannah Collison, which brings us up a compliment of 10 Parish Councillors, leaving 2 vacancies. I would encourage interested Parishioners to seriously consider becoming a Councillor to bring the Council up to a full compliment of 12.

Covid-19 Impact and Regulations

The U.K. Government has only just started to tentatively lift the lockdown restrictions enabling restricted meetings externally. Shielding for over 70's and those with underlying medical conditions is still in place and Social Distancing is still an overarching requirement to be met to reduce Covid-19 transmission for the foreseeable future. Therefore it is still not an appropriate time to reconvene face to face Parish Council meetings where Councillors and members of the public would be in attendance.

The Parish Council has adopted the following Covid-19 regulatory approach. In lieu of holding an Annual Assembly meeting, the Chairman's Annual Report will also be published via notice boards and social media. Residents who wish to raise issues in respect of the report can do so via the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council AGM has been deferred until 2021.

Draft Financial year end accounts are being prepared by the end of June 2020. These will then be audited by the external auditors and be available to parishioners to view before 1st September.

During this exceptional Covid-19 lockdown period, and as permitted under emergency legislation, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, together with our Clerk, have been addressing any issues that have been brought to the attention of the Clerk by Parishioners. We are also attending to all financial matters and taking important decisions on all other matters requiring immediate attention. To date there have been no matters that have arisen where there has been a necessity to hold a Parish Council meeting or vote on a proposal. Parish Council face to face meetings will be recommenced as soon as possible.

Parish Projects Delivered & Initiated

As a backdrop to the period HDC & CCC have continued to face budget constraints and as a consequence more work has filtered down to local Parish Councils. However; During the period the Parish Council has delivered a significant number of additional new amenities and activities as follows.

Projects Delivered & Initiated

Pitfield Close Children's Play Area, small slide and climbing net installed.

Chequer Street Children's Play Area, new fencing installed & two additional swings added.

Six new picnic tables installed around the village.

New benches, including children's table top games installed.

Co-ordinated Covid-19 emergency response to provide the Pharmacy with PPE supplies.
Speed watch equipment purchase, training and set up implemented.
Village clean up days managed & instigated 21/09/19, 19/01/20.
Time bank launched in conjunction with St Ives 16/11/19.
Registered Fenstanton Allotments with HDC as an Asset of Community Value, protecting this facility for Allotment Holders against use for a potential housing development.
Co-ordinated VE Day celebrations for May 2020, now deferred in part to September 2020 due to Covid-19 impact.

Submitted joint application with Fen Drayton,, Elsworth and Lolworth Parish Councils for funding a Village Warden to provide support to the vulnerable in our communities. CCC rejected our Grant application, However, this will be resubmitted at the earliest opportunity
Facilitated a Covid-19 Dedicated website, Here to Help leaflet and provided a community support focal point for vulnerable residents.
Multi Use Games Area negotiations completed with CCC & School, completed feasibility study and agreed 100% funding with A14 Legacy Fund.
The Fen Road Bridleway Path & Cycleway feasibility study and residents consultation completed in conjunction with CCC.

Projects in Progress (subject to Covid-19 lock down & regulations)

Installation of the Multi Use Games Area on the school playing field.
Fen Road Bridle Path & Cycleway legal requirements and surface works to be completed via CCC Grant.
Clock tower repair and refurbishment.
Pond: Spray pond weed during summer, replace fencing and bollards during summer.
Remove pond weed in Autumn. Pond relined and replanted in Autumn. Establish public seating area on the grass area.
The refurbished Village Whipping Post & History Board to be installed at the Clock Tower.
Additional Litter & Dog Litter bins to be installed by mid July
VE Day celebrations event deferred to September.
Establishment of a collection point for the St Ives Foodbank in Fenstanton
Support in the development of a Community Café
Undertaken Village planting survey and implement planting plan

Parish Matters General

The Parish Council will continue to address concern about future reductions in our bus services. Last year the Mayor and Council County Council agreed to extend the local bus service by a further 12 months. The Parish Council continues to lobby CCC, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Stagecoach and Dews to improve services.

Following completion of the new A14, HGV parking on the Dairy Crest slip road has diminished, ceasing to be a significant concern for Oakland's Residents.

The Parish Council applied to list the King Bill Pub as an Asset of Community Value, this was rejected and planning consent was approved by HDC for conversion into a residence.

The Parish Council has continued to list additional village assets that it considers Assets of community value: the Glebe allotments.

Parish Grants Awarded

Fenstanton Football Club. Award £450 from CIL funds for the purchase of new Junior goals and equipment.

Fenstanton Friendship Group. Award £250 from S106 to support program of speakers.
2nd Fenstanton Rainbows, Brownies and Guiding Group. Award £250 from s106 for purchase of equipment.

Fenstanton Village Sports Committee. Award £500 from CIL funds for the purchase of new tents/gazebos, which could also be used by wider Fenstanton Community groups for outdoor events

Fenstanton Bowls Club. Award £300 from s18 for purchase of a new gas boiler to provide hot drinks to teams.

Fenstanton Church Centre. Award £300 from CIL for the provision of free community wi-fi in the hall.

Fenstanton and Hilton 1st Scout Group. Award £250 from s106 for purchase of equipment.

Parish Planning Matters

A total of 55 Planning Applications (27 previous Year), in respect of which the Parish Council are consulted, were reviewed by the Parish Council. Licensing applications were challenged - in particular the Headlands Micro pub.

Housing development work continues on both Dairy Crest (Morris Homes) and The Park (Kier Living) developments. The Parish Council continues to work with the developers, CCC and HDC to ensure the A14 Dairy Crest Slip Road is designed to be a safe residential access road, introducing a cycle way, 30 mph speed limit, road narrowing through a central hashed reservation, double yellow lines and a pedestrian crossing.

Parish Office Matters

The Parish Office was relocated from St Ives to our new office location "The Hub" in Fenstanton High Street on 20/02/20.

During the year our Parish Clerk resigned. My thanks to those Councillors who stepped in for several months to keep the Parish Office open while we recruited a replacement clerk. The successful recruitment exercise resulted in the appointment of Andy Monk our new Parish Clerk & RFO on 02/01/2020.

Burial Board Matters

Following the works on removing the footpath and trimming a boundary hedge last year, space for 12 additional burial spaces was freed up to meet future needs. However; during the current year a total of 8 burial plots were allocated, which now leaves 6 double burial plots available. Due to limited availability, plots can only be purchased in the event of a parishioner death.

The Parish Council is currently progressing initiatives that will provide additional land required for expansion of the graveyard.

Parish Precept & Funding

In order to maintain the excellent level of service provided and achieve a balanced budget in the coming financial year 2020/21, the Parish Council has unanimously voted an increase of 18% in the Parish Precept, which equates to an annual increase of £10.63 (eighty nine pence per month) for a 'level D' property in the village. The Parish Precept remains within the bottom 25% of comparable sized parish precepts within the Huntingdonshire district.

Financial balances in DRAFT as at the year end 30/03/2020 were as follows:

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|---------------------|----------|
| Treasurers Account. | £ 4,989 |
| Precept Account. | £ 82,653 |
| CIL Account. | £148,679 |
| Pitfield Fund. | £ 18,931 |
| Youth Club Fund. | £ 2,444 |
| Cash. | £ 150 |
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| Total. | £257,846 |

Best Regards

Paul Kent
Chairman
Fenstanton Parish Council