

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

22 May 2023

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Thanks to everyone for attending.

Newly elected as Chairman of Haughley Parish Council.

Thanks to Alf Hannan for his chairmanship during the last 6 years.

We have welcomed three new Councillors during the year. We still have vacancies – please contact our Clerk to find out more if you think you might be interested in joining the Council.

Thank you to our Councillors for their work during the last year and I look forward to working with each during the coming year.

Thanks to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Claire Pizzey. Her guidance and support has been a tremendous help to us all.

Thanks to Andrew Stringer for his work supporting HPC as our County Councillor. His support over quite a number of years is much appreciated.

Thanks to Rachel Eburne and Keith Welham for their work on behalf of HPC as our District Councillors. Rachel has been our very active District Councillor for many years, while Keith has supported us during the last four years. Keith stood down at the recent elections and has been succeeded by Janet Person who has attended at our last two Parish Council meetings. We look forward to working with you.

Thanks also to Katie Power who regularly picks litter from around Haughley; also all who have supported the community litter picks. Additional bench seats, bins for litter and dog poo have been installed whilst several others are due to be installed.

HPC has held 11 meetings during the last year.

We have considered 27 Planning Applications and 1 Appeal Submissions by written representations.

Thanks to those involved with Parish Council committees and working parties, those who represent the Parish Council on other bodies and those with individual responsibilities. I shall not go into any detail at this stage as others have submitted or will be reporting in person on some of these activities as may be considered appropriate.

Work has been progressing with revising the Neighbourhood Plan in order to keep it up to date and valid. We held a consultation with Parishioners and others interested in these matters and there will be a further consultation during the next few months. There are various hoops that we have to go through before the revised Neighbourhood Plan can be adopted by Mid Suffolk District Council as part of the local planning policy.

We have considered and responded to concerns and requests raised by residents. We are working with other Parish Councils regarding the loss of bus services. We have ongoing communications with Highways England and the principal contractors concerning the improvements works to the A14 between junctions 47A and 49 and also SCC as the Highways Authority for other roads in the Parish.

Additional speed indicator devices/vehicle activated signs have been acquired and used around the Parish. Kerbing has been installed to protect parts of the Village Green. There is a new pedestrian crossing in Green Road by the school. New notice boards have been installed, together with maintenance work and improvements elsewhere.

Thank you to all who participated in or attended the Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Christmas lights event and the events for the Coronations of King Charles III. It was gratifying to see so many people attending these events, including during weather conditions which were less than ideal, demonstrating community spirit within the Parish. We look forward to seeing you at the events to Commemorate the 850th anniversary of the siege of Haughley Castle in 1173 and hope that some if not many of you will join in the pageant. Please speak to Thirza or me for further information.