

# HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Parish Meeting 6 May 2021

For the whole of the year May 2020 to May 2021, all our meetings have had to be conducted virtually, via Zoom – the advantage of this is that we have had more members of the public attending than we ever have before. I am sure we all benefited by villagers regularly attending the Parish Council Meetings. And it was good to see a District Councillor at every meeting and thank you to both Phillip Allen and Ian Sollom for their continued help and support.

**County Broadband** - Cllr Ben Mavely reported that Haslingfield has reached the minimum threshold for the installation of the fibre optic broadband. County Broadband are moving to the next stage, which is a project review. They are keeping the free connection offer open for a couple more months.

**Digital Mapping Software** - We are now using Digital Mapping Software in the village which will help the recording of parish assets, checking land registry boundaries and marking out grass and hedge cutting areas for our Grounds Maintenance contractors, as well being able to list all the trees that are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

**East West Rail** - The proposed East West Rail has been a major concern through last year and continues to be so. All we want, as Parish Councillors as with many of the villagers, is equal treatment and fair consultations for both the Northern and Southern Routes. The current consultation period with EWR ends on the 9th June 2021, so please do go on their website and let them know your thoughts and comments <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation> Our thanks to Cllr David Revell and William Harrod for the extensive work they are doing on our behalf. Full details are available on the Cambridge Approach's website <https://cambridgeapproaches.org>

**Emergency Plan** - Cllr Helen Brown and Cllr Diana Offord have updated the Village Emergency Plan making it more concise and easier to read. To comply with GDPR regulations the revised plan was circulated to councillors, the clerk and assistant to the clerk. The main emergency contact details are posted on the village website.

**Environmental Group** - Jay Cole has for a few years successfully run an Environmental group, but regrettably has decided to hang up her spade and fork. However, I am delighted to inform you that Michelle Golder has decided to take over the role. Michelle is planning a spring clean in the village for Saturday 5 June. 2021. Please make a note in your diary and come along and help. Further details will be placed on Facebook and the Haslingfield Village Website. <https://haslingfieldvillage.co.uk>

**Food Vans** - Cllr Ben Mavely has been successful in getting Food Vans into the village, which has been exceptionally welcome during this pandemic, when we have been unable to visit our favourite restaurant and hostelry.

**Grounds Maintenance** - Cllr Clive Blower and Cllr Andrew Gillies have totally updated the village Grounds Maintenance specification recording how often we require the grass to be cut in each area, the hedges trimmed, and the ditches cleared. We have appointed Buchans Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance again for one year and plan to go out to tender early next year for a three-year contract.

**Haslingfield Greenway** - Cllr Lucian Hatfield reported that The Greater Cambridge Partnership have approved a budget of £8m for the Haslingfield Greenway. There will be two routes. Planning and construction will take approximately four years.

**Haslingfield Support Team** - Cllr Diana Offord continued to play a major part in helping the elderly and vulnerable people within the village during the Covid19 pandemic. I know many parishioners were, and still are, very grateful for all the help given by the Haslingfield Support team and I would like to thank each and every member of the team.

**Planning Applications** - The Councillors met, virtually, 16 times this year to discuss Planning Applications. They looked at 32 applications, 27 of which were supported.

**Skatepark** - Cllr Ben Mavely will be reporting on the history and current plans for replacing the Skatepark, which is now an expensive facility to keep repairing and is past its useful life. Briefly the plan is to replace it with a concrete structure.

**Starters, Leavers and Vacancies** - I am delighted to welcome both Zoe Ratnasothy and Lise Jackson to the team. Zoe joined us last month as a Parish Councillor and Lise to assist Jacqui Cressey with her ever-increasing mountain of work. I am also sorry to announce that two of our Parish Councillors have resigned, Ron Van der Hoorn and Helen Brown. I thank them both for the valuable contribution they have made. We now have a vacancy to replace Helen, if any of you are interested in either hearing more about what's involved or just applying please contact Jacqui Cressey, the Parish Clerk on [clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@haslingfieldparish.co.uk) or 01223 870269.

**Tree Wardens** - Two years ago Cllr Diana Offord and myself agreed to become Tree Wardens for the village, and it's fair to admit that neither of us have a great knowledge of trees. We commissioned an organisation to look at the health and safety of all our trees, and a report was issued, recommending what work needed doing and the urgency of the work. Both stage one and two have been completed and stage three of the programme will be planned for later this year. As previously mentioned many of our trees and hedges had been neglected for many years which has resulted in some trees having to be felled, limbs removed and extensive re-pollarding. Hopefully by doing this work now, it will make the trees healthier and give them a longer life. Two sweet chestnut trees have been planted in Chestnut Close and a small rota of people have very kindly organised a tree watering scheme. We are planning to plant some trees later this year, but we don't have a lot of land that is suitable and we are not in a position to plant as many as we would like. One thought, we have about 750 houses in Haslingfield, so if just 10% of the householders planted just one tree in their garden, that would mean another 75 trees for the village.

**Village Hall** - The Village Hall was completed last year and it is a shame that we haven't been able to enjoy it! this will be changing very shortly. I would like to thank Cllr Tony Adcock for informally taking on the role of Project Manager and for successfully receiving a grant of £10,000.

**Zoom Meetings** – High Court judgement has now been reached on the continuation of holding Zoom meetings, much to our disappointment it was decided that virtual meetings cannot continue. All councils must now return to holding physical meetings from 7 May. So our next Parish Council meeting scheduled for the 14 June 2021 will now take place in the Village Hall. We are also hoping to make it a hybrid meeting so many of you will still be able to attend via Zoom.

It has been an incredibly challenging year, not made easier by the fact that we were unable to meet face to face, sometimes making communication difficult, but despite that I think we can be proud of our achievements. My thanks go to every Parish Councillor for their valuable contribution, and I would like to include Ron Van der Hoorn in this who served the Council and the Village for many years. And lastly a huge thank you to Jacqui Cressey, the Parish Clerk for keeping us all on the straight and narrow and responding quickly to anything that arose, not an easy task, and thank you to Lise Jackson for helping Jacqui with the workload.

Jenny Jullien May 2021