

HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting May 2018

I started last year's report stating that it had been a very busy, productive and enjoyable time. This year has also been busy and productive but not quite so enjoyable. It has been a difficult year, and I am very grateful for the help and support from the Parish Councillors, District Councillors and the County Councillors, and last but not means least, Frances Laville, Parish Clerk, for wisdom and for keeping me on the straight and narrow again. Frances has left us to take up a role with Caldecote Parish Council, with which we wish her well. We are very grateful to Annabel, the Foxton Parish Clerk for helping us out tonight. We are in the process of interviewing and hope to be in the position to appointing a new clerk by the end of this week.

Communication - We have been criticised over the last year about a perceived lack of communication. However, we minute all our Parish Council meetings, and these are posted on the website, notice boards and an abridged version is posted in the Church and Village magazine. If you are online, then the easiest way to see the minutes is by going onto the Village website: <http://haslingfieldvillage.co.uk>. You can also sign up to receive an email that will you give you all the week's news on all aspects of village life. The Parish Council section of the website has all the minutes since 2010 and all our current statutory documents, along with agendas and the minutes of the Village Hall meetings. Our thanks to Ron van der Hoorn and the dedicated team who keep this up to date.

It would be great to have more Parish Councillors. There may be things that you would like us to do to improve the village. If so, we would like to hear from you, but for the time being it may well have to be put on the back burner, until we have the full complement of Councillors.

Development - Towards the end of last year's report, I mentioned that nothing had been said about the Grosvenor development at Trumpington, the housing development at Barrington, and its consequential traffic problems, or the Hare and Hounds at Harlton. Here is an update on these items.

1. The Grosvenor Sports development at Trumpington is now going ahead, but at Sawston, not at Trumpington.
2. Planning permission has been granted for the building of 220 houses on the Barrington Cement site and building will be started soon.
3. On 6th September 2017 the Hare and Hounds became a community-owned pub, thanks to the efforts of the local community.

Dog Bins - As requested by many villagers we have now installed more and larger dog bins.

Environmental Group - The village is looking a lot smarter, thanks to Jay Cole and her Environment team, but she would welcome more helpers – it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge - you just finish tidying up one area, another couple need doing and

then it's back to the start again. It was lovely to see the daffodils at the entry point of the village in the spring.

Referendums held in the last 12 months

1. **Traffic Calming** Earlier this year we organised a referendum to ascertain whether villagers wished us to implement Phase 3 of the proposed traffic calming scheme. By a narrow margin it was voted against implementing the scheme. Unfortunately, this seems to have created some bad feelings with the residents of the village, which was very disappointing and upsetting. Phase 2 of the traffic calming scheme, on Barton Road, will be installed in the summer of 2018. We were successful in obtaining a grant of nearly £10k and have decided to install a mobile vehicle activated sign, which was requested by many of the residents throughout the village in the original questionnaire. The sign will be sited in four different locations in the village. Information on speeds will be downloaded and passed back to Highways, who will be able to identify 'hot spots'. It is suggested that the VAS (Vehicle Activated sign) be moved every four weeks.
2. The second referendum was to ascertain whether the residents wanted an extension to the Village Hall. An overwhelming 90% supported the idea, and plans were submitted at a meeting in January. One of our residents suggested an alternative which seemed to have merit, so the Parish Councillors agreed to have the plans redrawn. It is likely that the building of the Village Hall extension will start this year or early next year.

Speed watch – This scheme is proving to be successful in reducing the speed throughout the village, with Linda Shankland and her team manning the roads morning and evening.

Starters, Leavers and Vacancies - During the year we were successful in recruiting two new Parish Councillors, Darren Crowe and Ian Johnson. Regrettably, Ian has decided to leave us, so we are currently five councillors short.

Wellhouse Meadow Management - Earlier this year we changed the company responsible for looking after the Wellhouse Meadow, the Elms and the verges and hedges throughout the village, and hopefully, you will all soon see the benefit. If you think anything else needs attention, please contact the Parish Clerk. Details of the new Parish Clerk will be posted on the website shortly.

Lastly, and by no means least, we would love to have more of you come to the Parish Council meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month. If you would like an item or topic added to the agenda, then please let the Parish Clerk know at least a week before the meeting.

Jenny Jullien May 2018