

Hasketon Parish Annual Meeting, held on 11th May 2017 at the Victory Hall.

Chairman's report:

This is my report on the activity of Hasketon Parish Council over the year 2016/2017.

Firstly I want to thank all the members of the Parish Council for their service over the last year. You have all given of your time freely and have done much behind the scenes to improve the quality of life of the people who live in our village. You have, by your contributions, made my role as Chairman very much easier.

I would also like to publically thank Isabel Clark, our retiring Parish Clerk, for all her efforts over, not only the last year but the last four years. She took on a role which challenged her and made a great success of it. She worried for us, sometimes staying awake at night, worrying for us. She cajoled us, prompted us and generally kept us all in order and on time with our responses to consultations and planning applications. She has led and advised on a number of things during the last year which are important to mention. She organised and co-ordinated the village celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. She organised the litter pick which everyone took part in. She has been the driving force behind the additional dog waste bins which have now been installed and she worked hard to reorganise the way we run the allotments and standardised the tenancy agreements.

I know it has seemed at times to be a thankless task which is why I want to redress that with these thanks which I know are echoed by other members of the council. As members know, we have already presented you with a gift of flowers and I would like you to accept this card signed by us all - with our very best wishes for the future. We know you have a challenge on your hands in relation to your mother's illness and wish you resilience and stamina in dealing with that.

Isabel will cease to be our Parish Clerk at the end of today and from tomorrow David Keeble who is here tonight taking the minutes will officially take over. I am pleased to welcome David whom we selected from the two candidates who applied. He impressed us all at interview and I am sure we will all enjoy working with you. I would like to thank Simon for chairing the panel and Sarah for her thoughtful and helpful assessment during and after the interviews.

During the year we said goodbye to Councillor Andrew Nightingale. As members will know I have written to him thanking him for his service and his contribution to the work of the Council, particularly for the support he gave Isabel on re-organising the finances of the council

During the year I believe we have improved the service we give to the community. We have not raised the precept. We have lived within our budget and have healthy reserves.

Some of the things we have been involved in are listed below: I have not named names other than Isabel- because everyone has been equally involved in decision making and the physical process of making things happen. But you have my thanks for your time and in some cases considerable effort.

- The purchase and installation of a defibrillator outside the Village Hall.
- Continued to lobby for improvements to the B1079 (of which more later)
- Organise the Queens 90th birthday celebrations,
- Purchase and install Astroturf in the goalmouth of the Goalposts
- Reorganising of the allotment tenancies, holding a meeting with allotment holders, arranging a clearing of brambles.
- The litter pick
- Dog bins.
- Updates on superfast broadband from the county council(Or the lack of it)

- Village Green maintenance, safety, fences and the continuing saga of updating the slide.
- Continuing to support the Victory Hall and its committee
- Dealing with planning applications.
- Maintaining the village website and transitioning it to Suffolk Cloud.
- The tree survey
- Maintaining the bus shelter
- Lobbying on potholes and the state of the roads.

I would also like to thank our district councillors for their financial support and, particularly of the defibrillator. I would also like to thank our newly re-elected County Councillor for his support particularly of the B1079 and other road issues. We look forward to working with them all over the next year.

Overall I believe it has been a good year for the Parish Council and the Parish and as your Chairman for the last year and as we enter a period of change I hope it continues.

Alastair McWhirter
Chairman