

Fenstanton Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2021

Introduction &

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for contributing their personal time without remuneration, they have diligently dealt with the many issues brought before them during the year. During this time we were actively recruiting our new Clerk Jo Perez, who and has settled in effectively.

My thanks also go to District and County Councillors for their service throughout the period, and Parishioners who have supported the Parish during this period. Particular mentions go to the late John Davies, HDC Councillor and Cllr Ian Bates, who is retiring after 20 years of continuous service as our County Councillor.

Particular mention is also made of Martin Crawshaw, who has contributed a significant amount of his time and expertise towards the work of Fenstanton Flood Working Group to investigate the cause, impact and proposed solutions required to mitigate the future risk of similar flooding to that of December 2020.

My appreciation also goes to the volunteer litter teams who contribute freely of their time.

During the current period we received 2 resignations from Cllrs Ian Caswell and Jackie Turner. We wish them well and thank them for their valuable services during their time serving the community. Five new Cllrs, Amit Puntambekar, Jerry Schonfeldt, Sam Polhill, Joseph Middleton & Mark Richardson were co-opted during the period, bringing the Parish Council up to a full complement of 13 Parish Councillors.

Covid-19 Impact and Regulations

During the initial six months of the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown period, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, together with our Clerk, dealt with any issues that were brought to the attention of the Clerk by Parishioners, as permitted under emergency legislation. This approach was implemented as an emergency arrangement, until the introduction of Zoom meetings in August, all Councillors and parishioners were subsequently able to attend monthly Parish Council Zoom meetings.

Your Parish Council will shortly be permitted to resume socially distanced face to face meetings, at which the press and members of the

public will be invited to attend. Residents will be notified accordingly. Draft Financial year end accounts are currently being prepared for the period ending 31 March 2021. The Annual Accounts will be made available to members of the public between Monday 14th June to Friday 23rd July 2021.

Parish Projects delivered

- Fen Bridleway implemented and repaired after flood damage.
- New Parish Council Website launched
- Village Pond renovation and fencing works
- Clocktower, bell and surrounds refurbished.
- 10 extra litter bins installed.
- 2 new benches installed
- Launched the Community Warden scheme
- Extended St Ives foodbank collections to Fenstanton
- 30mph speed limit introduced on Cambridge Road Slip Road off A1307.
- Cleaned up A1307 underpass and applied anti-graffiti paint.
- Established the Fenstanton Flood Working Group
- Committed funds to support the new Village Hall.
- Established Highway Drain clearing Working Group.

Projects & Initiatives In Progress

- Implement refurbishment of bus shelters.

- Implement 20mph speed limit in the High Street.
- Improve parish footpaths
- Digitalisation and location mapping of village burial records
- Install Chequer Street parking bays.
- Clock Tower and Village Pond works completed, History board & 2 picnic tables, whipping post installed.
- Implement Multi Use Games Area on school grounds during July 2021.
- Complete online mapping of all parish areas and services.
- Install additional benches around parish
- Galaxy Big Band, deferred to September 2021.
- Further development of the Hamptons open space & football field for sport, exercise and social use.

Other Parish Matters:

Cambridge Road A1307 slip road

Following completion of the new A14, HGV parking on the Cambridge Road slip road was expected to diminish. This has not been the case and dangerous HGV parking has continued. The volume and speed of vehicles along this stretch of road has been monitored, collecting evidence of significant speeding. Your Parish Council is preparing a re-submission to HDC to try to secure a release of retained CIL money for pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements. Meanwhile, to help mitigate dangerous parking of HGVs, your

Parish Clerk is contacting all Hauliers whose vehicles are parking overnight and causing an obstruction.

Transfer of the Old Orchard land to Fenstanton Parish Council

The legal transfer of title to this land at has now been completed. A lease is currently being drawn up in favour of Fenstanton Scouts for the siting a new village scout hut. The scouts will be responsible for future maintenance of this parcel of land.

Grants made during the year

- Community Café £500.
- Glebe Allotments £540.
- United Reformed Church £1,000.
- Fenstanton Friendship Club £250.
- Fenstanton Football Club £12,000 from S106 monies received
- Fenstanton Primary School a max of £6,000 "£ for £" fund matching scheme to support school improvements.

Parish Planning Matters

A total of 40 planning applications, have been processed, in respect of which the Parish Council have been consulted in an advisory capacity by HDC Planning.

Burial Board Matters

Your Parish Council is progressing with the validation and digitalisation of Village Burial Records. This will be enhanced with a new, on-line high-resolution digital map of the open graveyard.

Due to the shortage of known available plots, your Parish Council is continuing to progress an initiative with CCC and the school, which would provide additional land required for expansion of the graveyard.

Parish Funding

In order to maintain the current level of service provided, meet agreed commitments to the Village Hall Trust and Community Warden scheme and achieve a balanced budget in the coming financial year 2021/22, your Parish Council has increased the Parish contribution (Precept) by £1.17 per month for a level D property. The Parish Precept remains within the bottom 25% of comparable sized parish precepts within the Huntingdonshire district.

With the support of parish residents, your Parish Council will continue to diligently work throughout 2021/22 to improve village surrounds, delivering new and improved village amenities.

Chairman - Paul Kent
04.05.2021

The full Chairman's and RFO reports can be found by scanning the QR code:



How can you get involved?

Village clear-up

Sunday, 6th June

10.00am - 2.00pm

In conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy and Hunts District Council, we'll be out in force around the village.

To register your interest and for details on obtaining equipment
roy.mcgee@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk



Social distancing will still apply.



Galaxy Big Band @Bannolds is back

Saturday, 4th September

7.00pm till late

Tickets can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or on-line via the Parish Council website.

Tree planting

Plans to double the number of trees in Fenstanton are progressing well.

We're looking for help in:

- Surveying
- Mapping
- Planting
- Young tree after-care

To find out how you can get involved contact:



Ray Puddefoot on 07501 684935 or Roy Mcgee on 07949 453767 or see the Parish Council website.

To contact Jo Perez, your Parish Council Clerk
Telephone: 01480 465 300 Web: www.fenstantonpc.org
Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk