

Hatley Parish Council

Chair's report 2018 / 2019

During the past year the Parish Council has held five general meetings and three extraordinary meetings. We have discussed and resolved on matters such as the installation of a defibrillator, the East/West rail proposals, variation of conditions at the Gliding Club and a number of planning applications within the village.

Highlights of this year

We held a successful open evening at St Denis' church on 20th July. It was very well attended and Rachel Morley, the Director of the Friends of Friendless Churches (which owns the building), led two enthusiastic and knowledgeable tours of the church.

In November we took delivery of a new set of toddler swings for the play area. Many thanks for Harold Nickerson for his work on this project.

The Village Hall has benefited from new front doors which were installed in October with funding from the SCDC Community Energy Fund – thank you to Harold Nickerson for his assistance in this project.

The annual litter pick took place on 24th March; there were fewer attendees than on previous occasions but this did not deter those of us who, armed with bin bags, gloves and pickers, cleared a large stretch of the main road through and beyond Hatley. Sadly it doesn't take long for the rubbish to reappear, but it is still very rewarding to have made a difference to the countryside and it does add a touch of smugness to the rest of your day!

On the same day, a group of 24 ramblers from Comberton came through the village and were given a tour of St Denis' by Peter Mann; they were hugely appreciative and made a donation of £35.70 to the church which was very kind of them.

On 6th April 2019 we saw the launch of the new Hatley website: the layout is clear and easy to navigate through; there are lots of attractive photos of our village and surrounding area whenever you click through to another page and the material is current, informative and easy to understand. Thank you to Peter Mann for his dedication, hard work and the time he has spent to get the website up to such a professional standard.

A defibrillator has now been installed outside the Village Hall – thank you to everyone who assisted whether by filling in a questionnaire, attending the meeting for discussion or researching into funding and installation. Thank you to the Hatley Village Association (HVA), which generously funded part of the costs, and to Martin Ward who is ably heading up a team of volunteers who maintain the defibrillator. About 20 villagers have already been on a defibrillator and CPR training course, very competently run by East Anglian Air Ambulance. Everyone found it beneficial and there is another course planned for later in the year.

We have two new 'Children at play' signs in Hatley St George. Following the theft of one of the signs in January, we had removed the other one to prevent further theft. Fortunately, in December the PC had received a letter from Eliot Lees, a sign enthusiast, who was keen to help us restore or replace the signs. Thanks to his knowledge and expertise we now have replacements which are smart, clean, and most importantly faithful replicas of what was there originally. We are very grateful to Eliot for his generosity in donating his time and cost of the signs to our community.

Ongoing

During the past year the Village Hall has benefited from the work of two enthusiastic volunteers – Mervyn Lack and Linda Hudson

Their duties include cleaning the hall and making it ready for anyone who has a commercial booking. Our sincere thanks go to both of them for their sterling work. Recently Linda Hudson has retired from this post as she has other priorities to attend to. Since then, various villagers have been helping out alongside Mervyn. In particular our clerk, Kim Wilde, has taken on the brunt of dealing with the bookings and hall preparation and we are trying to set up a regular rota system which will mean there will be considerably fewer demands on Kim's time. Thank you to Donna Gillett, Alan Pinney, Sylvia Marshall and Harold Nickerson for their help in recent months.

Alan Pinney regularly continues to move the speed warning sign and charge up the batteries – thank you for all your work over the past year.

Thank you too to the HVA for all the events you have organised during the year: the Fête and Quiz Night stand out, as do the regular Coffee Mornings. And thank you for your generous contributions towards the defibrillator as well as the noticeboard which will be erected soon.

Thank you to Sebastian Kindersley and Heather Williams, respectively our County and District Councillors, who manage to attend regularly despite a heavy timetable of other PC meetings. We appreciate all your knowledge and guidance.

Thank you to my fellow councillors for all your help and support.

A big thank you to Kim Wilde, clerk and superwoman – hard working, dedicated and with amazing attention to detail. We are very fortunate to have you in post.

And finally thank you to all the members of the community who regularly attend and contribute to the Parish Council's meetings.

Margot Eagle
Chairman, Hatley Parish Council
21st May 2019