

Hatley Parish Council

Chairman's report, 2021 / 2022

I stepped down from the Parish Council just before the May elections and cannot be here to day to deliver my report. I enjoyed my 8+ years on the Parish Council and now it's time to welcome new councillors and move on to other projects.

Please let friends and neighbours know that there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council, if anyone is interested they should speak to current members or to Nicola our Clerk. It would be great if a younger member of the community was interested as they would bring a refreshing new perspective to the membership.

I would like to extend thanks to members of our community who have generously given their time to Parish Council projects – to Martin Ward for continuing to head up the Defibrillator Group and co-ordinating the regular inspections. Thanks also to Alan Pinney for all his work with the speed sign; Alan regularly re-locates the sign and re-charges the battery and we are very grateful for his continued commitment.

Peter Mann and Mervyn Lack have project managed the toilet refurbishments here at the Village Hall – I urge you all to spend a penny tonight so that you can admire the high standard of work and the sleek design. Between them they have brought the project in under budget through good management of the finances and co-ordinated the work force – huge thanks to both of them.

Over the past year we have held five ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting.

The Parish Council applied for funding from the Local Highways Improvement Scheme to install a 30 mph zone within Hatley St George. Harold Nickerson put in a great deal of work as did our previous Clerk, Kim Wilde.

Thanks to both of them for their hard work in gathering all the relevant information and producing a detailed and comprehensive application. Unfortunately we were not successful and missed out on the funding by a very small margin which is disappointing, however I am sure there will be other traffic mitigation ideas to explore in the future.

We have carried out two litter picks in the last year, one in early September 2021 and one at the end of March 2022. I hope that the Council feel they can continue to organise two litter picks a year as it really makes a difference to the appearance of main road and is an enjoyable activity for those that take part.

Carrying out this activity more often also means that drivers will witness us litter picking and hopefully it may deter some of the culprits.

The Parish Council had a stall at the Hatley St George fete last summer which concentrated on how the community can play it's part in protecting our planet.

In hindsight this was a precursor to the Council declaring a climate emergency in January 2022; we'd previously sent out a newsletter to both villages asking for ideas from residents and suggesting ways in which everyone can play their part in reducing, reusing and recycling.

Declaring a climate emergency will focus both hearts and minds on the challenges ahead and the council pledged to make it a permanent agenda item so that they can continue to seek, generate and publicise ideas and action.

There has been significant work on St Denis this Spring. I have not included details here as there is a comprehensive report from Nicola which will be available on the Hatley

website. Thanks must go to Peter Mann and Sebastian Kindersley for all their hard work and generosity on this project.

Thank you to Heather Williams, our District Councillor and Sebastian Kindersley, our County Councillor for their regular attendance and valuable contributions over the year. They have continued to update and inform us on many issues.

Thanks must go to my fellow councillors for their support and hard work over the year and also to Nicola Pearce, our Parish Clerk, who has worked hard in her first year to learn as much as she can about the role.

Thank you.

Margot Eagle
28th May 2022