

Highways

The Clerk continues to liaise successfully with the Highways Officers to have our potholes repaired, despite the continuing economic pressure on County Council Funding. We have had useful site meetings to agree priorities, again attended by Councillor Edward Connolly who has helped move matters along and work has been completed.

Battles Over – A Nations Tribute

The combined efforts of the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council delivered a memorable commemoration of the ending of the First World War through several events: the dawn piper, the well supported Remembrance Day service in St George's Church, the exhibition in the Memorial Hall, the solemn evening ceremony including the lighting of the beacon and fireworks, and then the hog roast and gathering in the Memorial Hall. The committee heard very positive feedback from all over the village, and I hope in some way it helped to bring our community closer together. Thank you to all those who made such valuable contributions to another great Hardingham event.

Thank you and Farewell!

This is the last newsletter I will be penning, as I stand down as Chairman and as a parish councillor at the beginning of May. I have enjoyed my tenure as chair, and I believe that the Council, in its quiet way, has achieved a lot for the village over the last few years. The routine within the village is often taken for granted, but thanks to our councillors who give of their time voluntarily and without reward, the business of the village carries on with minimal fuss. Pivotal to this is our Parish Clerk who I thank particularly for her tireless support of the Council.

John Sharples
Chairman



HARDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER 11 APRIL 2019

Dear Resident,

Report of the Parish Council
April 2018 – March 2019

The Council met 7 times during the 12 months April 2018 – 2019. In addition the Council hosted the Annual Village Meeting in May 2018. The meeting continues to be conducted in an informal style with refreshments, and will take place this year on 22nd May.

The Council agreed the following appointments:

Chairman – John Sharples
Vice Chairman – Henry Edwards
Responsible Financial Officer – Heidi Frary
Parish Council Trustee to the Memorial Hall for a period of 3 years – Glen Gower
Emergency Liaison Officer – Henry Edwards
Deputy Liaison Officer – Richard Burke
Internal Auditor – Tony Baker
Internal Auditor Scrutineer – Jane Strudwick
Footpath Warden – Jane Strudwick
Homewatch Contact – Heather Johnson

Planning Applications

The Council has considered 4 planning applications during the year. You can view the documents, including the Councils' response on Breckland Council Website (www.breckland.gov.uk/content/planning-application)
The appeal against the planner's refusal to allow the building of a house on the site of the old sewage works behind Beeches Lane failed.

Finance

The accounts for the year ended March 2018, presented in draft form to the last Annual Village Meeting, have been audited successfully.

A Receipts and Payments statement for the year ended March 2019 is available on the website and is available at the May meeting for inspection. The accounts will be audited and available for inspection under the exercise of electors' rights (information will be available on the website from 1st June)

No donations have been made during the year to organisations outside the village.

Parish Administration

The routine business of maintaining our Council administration, particularly keeping our policies and procedures up to date is conducted efficiently by our Parish Clerk. Details can be found on the Parish website. Of particular note this year has been the handover of the BT telephone box from BT ownership to the Parish Council. BT was going to remove it due to lack of use, and a sub-committee of the Parish Council has taken on responsibility for its care and upkeep. It has been repainted, shelves have been fixed within, and it soon will be a swap library as a new amenity for the village. Thanks go to Lynn Whitwell and Jane Strudwick for leading this project.

The other challenge we have had to deal with has been the removal of the Low Street post box which was sited at the entrance to Hardingham Station, and relocated in a dangerous position in the heart of Low Street. This was conducted arbitrarily by a Post Office sub-contractor without proper authority and any form of consultation with interested parties. Thanks to the intervention of County Councillor Edward Connolly, the post box is to be relocated back to the area of the cross roads opposite the station entrance.

Website

www.hardinghampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

We continue to include more details of forthcoming events within the village in addition to details of Village Clubs and Societies. We can, however, only include information which we receive, so please do send anything you think relevant to the Clerk to upload. Also posted are all parish council documents including agendas and minutes of meetings. There is also now a Parish Council Facebook page where information is also shared.

Faster Broadband

The battle to get fibre optic broadband to most of the village has reached its conclusion, commissioning of the new service is completed, and all households eligible for connection are now free to do so. This process has taken nearly five years to achieve, and we would probably still be waiting now were it not for the intervention again of County Councillor Edward Connolly to whom we are extremely grateful.

Village Litter Picks

The litter problem in our village continues to be a problem. Our Litter Wardens, Jane Strudwick and Nigel Ford, continue to do a great job in organising litter picks in February, and there was a good turnout of volunteers this year to whom we send a big Thank you. It would be much appreciated if, when out walking, residents pick up litter when they come upon it in order to keep our village tidy. I particularly commend Nigel and Jenny Ford who, in their own time, I have seen going round the village roads and footpaths with sacks and pickers finding litter and removing it. What exemplary public spirit.