

Chairmans Report for 2022/23.

Our last Annual Parish Meeting of this Council, our four-year term has run its course. New elections will take place on the 4th May 2023.

Our long-term project of having a High Street Chicane and speed cushions has made ground since our last APM. With Steve Jarvis help our County Councillor the feasibility study is in its final stages. The works will be divided into two parts the first being upgraded signage at both ends of the High Street work starting in the new financial year.

The second phase which will need public consultation will start in the Financial year 2024/25.

With more housing and commercial sites planned in between Biggleswade and Dunton this situation can only put more pressure on the surrounding roads, with our connection to the southbound A1 sometimes making it a "Rat Run"

Planning

Since our last Annual Meeting, planning application issues have been less than the previous year, we had the usual number of home extensions or conversions etc we which we were asked to comment on.

Also

One bed new dwelling in the grounds of Hinxworth House.

A domestic wind mill.

Recreation Field

The Hinxworth Archery Club have signed a new agreement for 2023-24. Now back to paying a full fee to the PC.

Also that the Caravan Club are to visit us in the summer this year. This brings in our largest income.

The PC hope to improve the entrance to the ground during the drier season.

We also looking to see how we could improve/add to the playing equipment over the next couple of years as the number of children has increased in the Village.

Allotments.

The allotments have one or two spaces following the very busy period over the last two years. The Parish Council holds the rent & deposits which amount to over £4,000 built up over the years, this money is held to reinstate the allotments to a clean field should it cease to be used and the land returned to NHDC. We feel as a PC that we are covered enough to release funds to the allotment users to upgrade the water storage and collection of rain fall.

Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee again have done great work and I would like to pass on our thanks to Helen and her committee for keeping this building operational, clean and legal as regards to Health and Safety of a Public building .The hall has never looked so good and their finances on a stable footing. It's a great credit to them.

Village Voice News Letter.

Our thanks to Karan Mills and Jan Olson- Williams for another great year of their work producing the Voice. Also, a very big thank you to Floyd Engineering for continuing to print the Village Voice. Parish Council will continue to cover the publication with our insurance policy.

War Memorial Clock

I would like to thank Allister McGraw for his great work keeping this time piece working and wound up. The very cold winter has given him problems with the aging mechanism, but he has won through!

Also, many thanks to Graham White for his work keeping the flags flying at the right time, much appreciated and thanks to Councillor Tony Dawson for his gardening skills also.

Parish Precept

The Precept has been increased by 3% to £10,718 for 2023-24 the first increase in the last 17th years.

This increase will help us with the inevitable cost increases the PC has to bear.

Our finances we believe to be on and sound footing.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their commitment over the last year but also the last five years. Alongside Wendy Kitchener for her work as our Clerk.

Also, our thanks to the commitment of Steve Jarvis County Councillor and Tom Tyson District Councillor for their continued support of Hinxworth.

New elections will take place on the 4th May 2023.

That concludes my report for 2022/23.