

Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2023
Parish Council Report

2022/23 was a turbulent year for the Parish Council, with several new members joining and leaving in quick succession. Two of our most experienced councillors resigned and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Lane and Mike Colman for their many years of service.

I don't want to dwell on the negativity that has surrounded the Parish Council this past year. I would rather look forward to a positive and proactive year with two new councillors joining us, welcome Mary Osborne and Peter Moore.

We will continue to support the village in any way we can, building on our relationship with Breckland to ensure our roads are kept as pothole free as possible (we have had to accept that the narrowing of our roads in and around the village will not be addressed by Breckland at any time due to lack of funds). We can also chase Breckland for any grass cutting that is needed in the village. We keep an eye on the levels of water that appear when we have torrential downpours and have recently managed to get the culverts cleared that run from one end of the village to the other and off out to Litcham. We have also provided sand and bags outside the village hall for anyone who is liable to flooding (we've had several houses recently who have suffered with flash flooding) and have renewed some of the salt/grit bins.

We have an emergency plan in place with a lead, deputy lead and 8 co-ordinators throughout the village who can assist until the emergency services arrive and a huge list of volunteers who can supply machinery, accommodation, shelter for pets, hot meals, deliver supplies and a whole host of medical expertise.

We also provide the village with allotments opposite the war memorial, there is a report from the Chairperson and contact details if you would like to go onto the waiting list for a plot.

Unfortunately the speed watch team has recently disbanded which means we will not be considered for a monthly speed camera visit from the police. This is a real shame and I urge anyone who has a couple of hours a month spare to get on board with any of the groups or committees within the village, ie Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee, Parochial Parish Council to name a few, as we are all suffering with the same issue lack of support from those who live in the village.

Finally, I would like to thank Donna our Clerk who has been a great help with advice and guidance throughout the year and I look forward to welcoming anyone else who would be able to add their skills to this team - we currently have 2 vacancies to get us up to a full strength Council of 7.

Kay Gingell
Chairperson