

## Earsham Parish Council

### Chairman's Report May 2023- 2024

I was honoured to be elected chairman and thanks must go to Stephen Wood as the outgoing chairman for all his hard work over the last few years.  
Also, thanks to Cllr Leech for putting himself forward as Deputy Chairman.

#### Parish Council

With both Stephen Wood and Peter Goodfellow stepping down from the council two vacancies arose. In August Richard Naunton and then in September David Clark were co-opted onto the Parish Council.

I am still attending the monthly zoom Town and Parish Forum's and in November attended one in person at the council offices in Norwich. It was good to meet up with other councilors and originations in person.

#### WWI Air field memorial

The design for this is agreed and at the time of writing the council is waiting on NCC highways to agree on final positioning.

#### Village Hall/Green

Some work has been done on the Village Hall, with more planned. It was good to see the return of the village fete and beer festival, both a success, well done to all who organised them and for clearing up the green afterwards.

Ten saplings were planted on the village green by SNDC as part of the late Queen's green canopy scheme.

The new notice board and coronation bench have been ordered and delivered. Plans are underway to improve the area around the war memorial.

#### Playing Field

The wooden structures of the play equipment have recoated so should be okay for a few years. Cllr Naunton has taken on the role of checking the play equipment and dealing with any matters that arise from the annual inspection.

In September an abandoned van set alight at playing field, this had been reported to the Police a few months ago. UK Power Networks was also informed as van was below their power lines. Van was removed a week later, police investigating.

#### Village Car Park

In August the Clerk and I had a zoom meeting with Andy Sexton of SNDC/Broadland to look at getting funding for refurbishment of village car park. A bid for drainage work and resurfacing of the car park was submitted in January to the Pride in Place scheme. Unfortunately, the Parish Council's bid was unsuccessful. It was decided at the March meeting to go ahead with the drainage part of the scheme funded by the Parish Council as this work is badly required before next winter.

#### Allotments

A water leak on the allotments was found by Graham Algar and then fixed by Ian Goff and Gary Hambling with many thanks from the council. This could be one reason for high water bill, time will tell. There has been some change of allotment holders this year, but the allotments are looking in much better condition than a year ago. Also, the new rules agreed between the Parish Council and the allotment holders seems to be working well.

### A143

Teams meeting with Harleston Police and also attended by Harleston Town Councils vice chair. Speeding along the A143 was discussed and ideas were backed by the police, meeting to be arranged with Harleston Town council to discuss this further. Meeting with Harleston on hold for the time being. Parish council agreed to approach Norfolk highways to look at the problems with us. This was raised due to two fatal accidents which have happened on the road in Earsham during the year.

Meet with Cllr Naunton and Cllr Clark to put ideas together on the A143, these have been passed on to NCC Highways for their response/action.

### Community Emergency Plan

This is ongoing, it was decided at the March meeting to form a working group to support and co-ordinate this plan. It will take a lot of work between a lot of parties to pull this together.

### Around the Village

If you see any rubbish and it is safe to pick it up, please do so. We are very fortunate to have three resident litter pickers who are out most weeks so please help them out! A big thank you goes out to Bryan, Phil and John and also to the other residents who I know pick up litter on their walks around the village.

Again, there seems to be an issue with dog mess around the village. A notice went into the parish magazine asking dog owners to please pick up after your dog, We have numerous dog bins around the village, so this really shouldn't be an issue.

Also, I would like to mention the great fund raising achieved by Nathan West who ran a 10k race and has raised over 60k for MacMillan cancer charity.

I would like to say thank you to my fellow councilors for their hard work and support, also to our hard-working clerk Lynda who we would be lost without. Thanks also to all the Earsham residents who help in many ways to make the village a good place to live in.

Cllr Richard Randlesome

May 2024