

## **Hilderstone Parish Council**

### **Chairman's Annual Report.**

With all the General Elections happening very soon I am pleased to say the next Parish Election is not until May 2019. However I have come to the decision that this will be my last year as Chairman after 15years. I am also placing it on record that I will not be standing as a Parish Councillor at the next election after 25years. Cllr Jean Jones has also made it known that she will not be standing at the next election either.

Hilderstone Parish Council is constituted with seven Councillors, therefore between now and May 2019 the village has to find two replacements, assuming the other Councillors want to continue. Two possible candidates can be co-opted on to the Parish Council before that date and this would allow the two Councillors to leave earlier so allowing the perspective new Councillors time to settle in before the next election.

Having made my intentions clear I will move on to the rest of my report.

#### **Village Consultation**

The Village Consultation is a required annual event for the Parish Council to meet with the people in the village to listen to any questions, any hopes and aspirations they may have. This meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm HVH. To help with the structure of the meeting we did put out a notice over the last two months in the Parish Magazine for householders to submit questions/suggestions prior to the meeting, unfortunately there has not been any response. We will have to take questions from the floor but, not guaranteeing any positive reply, as it would have to go back to Council for discussion.

The purpose of the Consultation Meeting is to identify points of view as to how the Parish Council might be able to improve its effort in meeting people's expectations. The principle one could be the future of the 'Roebuck Pub' - this will have been addressed at the meeting last night – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 - in the Village Hall.

#### **Village Maintenance**

It has been declared by Stafford County Council and the Borough Council that householders will progressively be expected to share the responsibility for Village Maintenance. Cllr Audrey Stringer and Mrs Helen Howie our Parish Clerk recently attended a meeting where some of these ideas were being discussed. What form these changes will be is not fully known yet.

Good news at time of writing. There appears to be movement in repairing the Lower Farm fence which was damaged Christmas 2015. The Insurance Company and the Repairer are making arrangements to reinstate the fence to its former appearance - this is a Grade 2 listed item. Special thanks to Bill Holmes for his involvement in getting this issue resolved.

#### **Parish Council Audit Procedure**

All required forms have been completed and outputs have been approved by our own Internal Auditor Alan James and will be submitted to the recognised authority following this meeting. My thanks go to Helen Howie for her diligent preparation of ever increasing paperwork.

#### **Village Conservation**

Following the Parish Council's two years work in completing this essential appraisal it appears many householders within the Hilderstone Parish are not aware of their need to comply with the conservation requirements when it comes to planning matters or the care of their boundaries within the total plan, particularly regarding established trees. The Clerk has emphasised this again in next month's Parish Magazine.

#### **BKV – Best Kept Village**

Once again Hilderstone Village was Highly Commended in September 2016 and we have entered again this year. When attending the award ceremony it can be observed how enthusiastic people are about their villages, Team Spirit and Pride is evident and good reason why other villages gain a higher standing in awards. The villages who do gain awards work tirelessly and committed to improve the

appearance of their village and all good success to them. If it was not for the effort Bill Holmes puts into this village it would be pointless entering the competition, much to the detriment of the village in general. Residents of Eastholme have to receive some positive comments for the effort they do contribute together with the Churchyard Tidy-up Team.

Thank you to Green Lea School for the children's paintings - this is an essential contribution to the BKV Competition.

### **Traffic Issues**

Very little to report on the year, the SID speed indicator does appear from time to time. The volume of traffic continues to be too high for our village and the number of HGVs continue to come through the village.

### **Village Assets**

#### **Roebuck**

Last year I gave thanks for the work Darrel had put in in keeping the Pub going but, unfortunately, about February this year it closed again. Admiral Taverns now wants to sell the property rather than put another tenant in. As a consequence there are a number of people in the village who would like to see the pub open again and a meeting has already taken place preceding this meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the VH. No doubt a report on the outcome will appear in the Minutes of the meeting.

#### **Christ Church**

The Church is regarded as one of the Hilderstone three assets. Last year my report indicated that the Christ Church achieved its Parish Share in 2015 however, in 2016 there was a shortfall of £3500 which now has to be recovered. The other significant event was that Prep Revd Peter Dakin had to retire through ill health. The good news is that we do have a new vicar, the Revd Marion Reynolds, who will be starting on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Her licencing will take place at 3pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July at Fulford, this is by invitation, and her first service will be at Hilderstone Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 11.15 am which will be a combined service with Fulford, everyone is welcome to the service and greeting party afterwards in the Village Hall.

During the interregnum we have to give thanks to all the retired clergy who have enabled the church to have a regular service and we have seen an increase in the congregation. The fabric of the church is still giving cause for concern as no funds are available for its on-going maintenance.

#### **Village Hall**

A major asset to the village and the committee have staged a number of new initiatives in the year - a Children's activity morning, a Pop-up Pub, and continuation of the Film Nights that are well supported, together with a Music Concert.

#### **Village Communications**

Both the Parish Magazine and Web Site are key to getting messages out to all householders in the village - thanks to Sue Stubbs and Stephen Ireland.

#### **Village Events Report 2016-2017**

The Queens official birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 did get recognized and was incorporated into the **Scarecrow Week-end** where they the '*Royal Couple*' made an appearance at the Scarecrow Church Service.

**Village Fete** on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016 had to take place in the Village Hall due to bad weather – it is good we have this alternative venue.

**Village Christmas Dinner** 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – once again a big success and thanks to Hazel Woodward and Jean Jones for organising the event.

**Village Christmas Concert** on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 was another success with home spun talent and thanks to Andy Reiss for co-ordinating the event.

**Coach Trip** to Acton Scott - a new community initiative organised by Hazel Woodward and was a great success. Thank you to County Councillor Cllr Ian Parry who assisted with the funding.

**Coffee morning** organised by Lily Moore to raise funds for the First Responders.

**Village Dinner Party** May 2016 – a successful event organised by Joan Carr.

**Jumble Sale** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to raise funds for the church and Christmas Party.

**Children's Activity** morning St Georges Day 22 April 2017 another new initiative.

**First Pop-up Pub** event Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017

#### **Future Events**

- Village Consultation Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 HVH 7.30pm
- Village Dinner Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in HVH thank you to Joan Carr for organising again.
- Further Pop-up Pubs at the Village Hall are being planned as an alternative to no pub in the village. An attempt to keep the community coming together. Could become a monthly event.
- Village Fete 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Lower Farm weather permitting.
- Licencing of the New Vicar Sat 29<sup>th</sup> July Fulford 3pm and combined service Sun 30<sup>th</sup> July at Christ Church, Hilderstone 11.15am.
- Jumble Sale Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in HVH.
- Coach Trip 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 organised by Hazel Woodward to Adam Henderson's Farm in the Cotswolds.
- Barn Dance Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 HVH.
- Village Christmas Dinner Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### **Thank You**

A big thank you to Bill Holmes for without his diligence and support in maintaining the village then the appearance of the Hilderstone would be in a much poorer condition.

Tim Kitchen and Michael Dix for their continued litter picking.

A special thank you to Helen Howie our Parish Clerk who, without her input, we could not have functioned so effectively as a Parish Council.

Finally thank you to all the Parish Councillors who have given me and this village their support throughout this last year.

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Prepared by: Cllr Roy Clark, Chairman, Hilderstone Parish Council.

Circulation Members of Hilderstone parish Council  
Parish Magazine  
Village Website  
Borough Councillor Andrew Harp  
County Councillor Ian Parry

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