

Hilderstone Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report

The first twelve months in the chair have soon passed, may I thank Roy Clark for the excellent way he has chaired the parish council for the last 15 years. As a result, we decided to make a rule from the last AGM, a maximum of 3 years as chairman at any one time was the limit any councillor could be chairman more than once. May I also thank Jean Jones for many years serving as a parish councillor, Jean gave in her resignation in March and leaves a vacancy on the parish council. Which has been advertised and two residents in the village have shown interest in the position.

Village Consultation

This year this will take place on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7pm prior to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. This meeting is mainly to hear from those present any questions they may have about current topics or problems related to Hilderstone Village. Anyone living in the village can come to our monthly parish council meetings if they have any issues or views on the village in general.

Village Maintenance

County and Borough Council slowly but surely keep pushing more responsibility and cost on to the parish council, this being the main reason for the precept increase, to keep a reasonable reserve to keep the village in good repair.

Village Conservation

This was brought into prevent large trees or walls and points of historic value being removed or destroyed without proper permission being given from the relevant authority. No one is stopping residents from light pruning or tidying up of trees or walls, boundary fencing or footpaths.

Best Kept Village

The efforts of all taken part were rewarded with a 3rd place in our category. Once again, we have entered but this is not a parish council issue, it is for villagers to enter into the community spirit, for working parties to be formed, to give us all a feeling of pride and be proud of where we live.

Traffic

Pot holes and blocked drains are best reported direct to the county highways with a photo and location. The more complaints they get the more likely something will be done. Volume of traffic will not get any less as more and more houses are built, and people must travel to work. The Hardiwick crossroads continues to be a regular accident black spot. County councillor Ian Parry informs me that all accidents involving the emergency services are recorded and looked at to see if improvements are justifiable however most accidents are down to driver error.

The Roebuck

After a long empty spell, it was nice to see in September 2017 it reopened, and life brought back to what was becoming a neglected property I hope with village support it will go from strength to strength and remain open for years to come.

The Old Bird in Hand

After many years as a derelict building site it is nice to see it slowly turned around to make six mews cottages, some sold and some for sale at this moment in time. My only concern is I hope residents and visitors don't park outside their houses on the road but use the carpark on the opposite side of the road. Otherwise it may make an already dangerous crossroads more dangerous.

The Church

All churches need much upkeep and Hilderstone Church is fundraising for access for all to provide greater disabled access including accessible toilet facilities. The churchyard is part of the village assets and well maintained by working parties with Philip Davies mowing it regularly. The new vicar Rev. Marion Reynolds has taken up the position for Fulford and Hilderstone since July 2017, we hope she as a long and enjoyable stay for many years with us.

Village Hall

An excellent asset to the village regularly used and spotlessly kept inside by the caretaker Mr Wareham.

Village Events

All village events are published in the magazine and on the web site. They include village fete, Christmas party, village concert, film night, annual coach trip, by annual scarecrow week end, come dine with me evening, jumble sales. Many thanks to all those involved in organizing all our village events. It helps bring community spirit and friendship to our village, Thank you.

Thank You

A big thank you to Bill Holmes for all his work throughout the year keeping on top of weeds, keeping boxes and benches in good repair making a big difference to the appearance of the village. Thank you to our regular litter pickers Tom Kitchen and Michael Dix. Thank you to Helen Howie our clerk for the last 8 years who worked hard keeping on top of all aspects of running a parish council, Sadly Helen Howie gave her notice in at the January meeting and left at the March meeting. The good news is, we have set on a new clerk just as capable as Helen was by the name of Amanda Kingston. I'm sure she will soon fit in as she is clerk for Weston with Gayton and has much experience in parish council daily running. A final thanks to all parish councillors for their help and support though the last twelve months. Finally, may I say I've lived in Hilderstone my entire life so far, seen many changes not all for the better, but I can say I'm proud of where I live.

Councillor Michael Shelley (Chairman)

23rd May 2018