

Hilderstone Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report.

My second year as chairman of the parish council will soon be complete. The position of clerk for the parish council was filled by a very able Amanda Kingston who knows in some detail what a parish council clerk role is all about and I feel we are lucky to have someone with such knowledge and ability.

With Jean Jones deciding to leave the parish council a vacancy was created, After all proper procedure, rule and regulations were gone through, two people were interested and one by the name of Jim Davies was offered the position as a stone town councillor and past mayor of stone. The councillor's thought he would have a lot to offer on the parish council.

Year or Election

This year is an election year to take place in early May. Anyone living in our village or surrounding area, who is on the electoral role is eligible to stand for election for Hilderstone Parish Council. A slot is made on the monthly meeting agenda, for public participation so villagers can have their say and raise issues of concern in the village so please come along to a meeting and see what goes on.

Village Maintenance

Blocked drains and potholes are reported by as many people as possible to the Highways department to give them some idea as to how dangerous they are for cycles, motor bikes and cars alike. Village maintenance is taken care of by Bill Holmes for benches, plant boxes, bus shelters and many other small jobs. Simon Down is called in for tree surgery or tree planting when necessary. Tractor mower contractor mows the roebuck bank twice a year after the daffodils have finished and ground maintenance contractor is on hand for the verges and road side weed control and other areas when required.

Planning

On a regular occasions plans for development or alteration to village properties come before the parish council, all proposals are carefully considered and a report sent back to the planning department, as councillors we feel sometimes they take no notice of our view what so ever.

Best Kept Village

We continue to subscribe to the competition to help people to have a sense of pride and a goal to aim for in keeping the village clean and tidy, which is pleasing to the eye and gives a sense of pride. My thanks go to those who litter pick and get involved in working parties to keep our village looking at its best.

Traffic

With many new houses being built in local areas it will undoubtedly increase the volume of traffic. There is little we can do about the amount of traffic through the village, but we continually look at ways to control the speed and safety of all those who use our village.

The Roebuck

Eighteen months has passed since the reopening of the village pub. It came as a shock to hear of the sudden death of David Westwood in November last year. Having spoken to his wife, she has made this her home and with village support will keep the Roebuck open for business for years to come.

The Church

Is kept very tidy by a small work force and is moving forward with its planned access for all and disabled toilet facilities. Our vicar Rev. Marion Reynolds has fitted in very well and is well liked.

Village Hall

This well-kept asset is a wonderful venue for many activities. Regularly used and well cared for 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, bingo, jumble sales and much more, all helps to get villagers involved and bring a community spirit to the village.

Thank You

A thank you to all parish councillors for their help and support, to our clerk Amanda Kingston for her excellent way she deals with many aspects of parish council tasks as a clerk and ability to budget and make financial statements so easy to understand. Also I would like thank Andy Harp as our borough councillor for his regular attendance to our meetings and his help and advice when asked for.