

WANGFORD WITH HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parish councillors for the time and effort that they devote to their duties which I remind you they do on a completely voluntary basis.

The position of Clerk has recently been filled and I welcome Greg who seems to be settling in well to the position. Greg will attend various training sessions over the next few months to help him understand all aspects of the role. We wish him well and thank him for the support that he has already given.

There is currently a vacancy for a parish councillor so if anybody would be happy to take up this position then please speak to me or one of my fellow councillors who would be happy to explain the role.

Once again, the parish council has been busy on your behalf.

The playing fields and children's playground have continued to be popular. We are aware of some areas that need to be looked at, improved and repaired and this work will be carried out over the coming months.

The multi-games area is not in serious need of attention and we will be discussing the best way to carry out necessary repairs without costing huge sums of money. The surface will shortly be sprayed with the correct type of weed and moss killer and we are waiting for a quote to have the surface repainted as this has not been done for several years. The boarding around the area is now in serious need of upgrading and this is being discussed at the next meeting.

There have been more reports of dogs not being on leads on the play area so we will be looking more at signage to make things clearer.

The allotments are still proving to be very popular with most plots now rented. The problem we had with rats in previous years seems to be under control due to the regular visits by the pest controller. Thank you to Steven for overseeing the grass

cutting and maintenance and to Geoff for holding allotment meetings when possible and answering tenants queries. A new noticeboard for the allotments and garages has been installed within the area and will be used to show details of tenancy agreements for allotments and garages to avoid any confusion so that transfers are made in the correct way. The noticeboard will also be used to advertise and planned allotment meetings.

Our allocation of Latitude tickets has now sold out. If you failed to apply before the deadline and would like a ticket please contact me as some spare tickets may become available nearer the time.

At time of payment, we will again be asking residents to volunteer a few hours of their time, if they don't already do so, help with any ongoing and future projects within the village and at the Steam Rally.

Current Projects

The work to the new bus stops has eventually been completed and thank you to everyone involved for their continued chasing over the last 18 months to get this done. We will look at installing a shelter at the stop before winter if funding allows.

Work on the community wildflower garden is ongoing and now the plants and trees are starting to flourish. We have had some excellent feedback from both residents and people from outside the area and this work has and will continue to enhance this area of the village and a special thank you to Helen Rolfe and Geoff for their knowledge and input.

Future Projects

The parish council has reasonable funds at present, mainly due to the income from the sale of Latitude tickets over recent years. Therefore, we are looking for several projects that these funds could be spent on to enhance what we already have.

Money has been ring fenced for repairs to the multi games area, repairs to the children's play area and maintenance to the playing fields.

We welcome any ideas for projects that people would like to put forward so that they can be discussed and costed at future meetings.

The Coronation Big Help Out

Went very well and thank you to everybody who volunteered some of their time to help with various jobs that needed doing. A special than you to Sue Taylor and Sarah Farrands for organising the event and the various work parties.

In closing

Wangford, is a very active village, and it has been proved in recent years that there is a thriving and supportive community.

The Parish Council is responsible for representing the entire village and I encourage all residents to make their views known to us.

Chair Cllr. Adrian Smith