

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

On considering what to put in this report a good deal of brain strain was required to get my memories in order. So the chances are that the order of events may be out of sync!!

One of the most important events was the Planning Appeal concerning the Business Park, the Chair of Ringshall PC (Chris Payne) and I had a Zoom Meeting in June with one of the Planners from Mid Suffolk who was to lead the Appeal. The meeting was mostly to get local information from us.

In September the Appeal was held in Offton and Willisham village hall and lasted 4 days, Chris Payne and I attended every day and eventually the Appeal was successful. Richard Morley, our Vice Chair also had a Planning issue to resolve regarding the damage to trees in Woodland View, the investigation into this is ongoing. It seems as though the Planning Department was less than efficient in dealing with this problem.

Little progress has been made with the Red Lion Pub which remains empty and boarded up, we hear various rumours that it has been purchased and will be a Public House again – none of these have come to fruition so far.

Andrew Auchterlonie has been on the case with moving the phone box to its new location outside the Village Hall and the Defibrillator has been installed. At the moment we have decided not to add anything else inside the phone box.

The new trees in the Community Woodland are looking healthy and hopefully all will have survived the very hot dry summer of last year, so many thanks to all the people who assisted with watering. Thanks also go to Derek Weston and Barry Abbott for their help during the year. We have signed a 5 year contract for the grass cutting but the majority of the grass will only be cut twice a year with 'pathways' cut more regularly to allow access and smaller wildflowers to grow. We have paid the £1 a year for the 20 year lease on the land and we agreed with Nick Thompson, the land owner, that that the £20 be donated to the Macmillan Charity.

During the year the Parish Council have been going through the process of registering the Green with the Land Registry, so that the ownership is with the Parish Council and the Village. This process is not quite complete.

With a number of houses being built in the Village the Parish Council has received a considerable sum of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy, we circulated a questionnaire to ask for suggestions for the use of this money. As yet no decision has been made.

Sue Burnett
Chair of the Parish Council