

Chair of Harringworth Parish Council: Annual Report to Parish Meeting – 2022/23

The Parish Council (PC) met 7 times over the last year continuing to serve the parishioners of Harringworth best interests. Routine business such as approving contract payments and ensuring that our finances are in order take up some of the time. but most of time is spent on pursuing topics of interests that have occurred during the year. Whilst this is the norm for our Parish Council we are not the only members of the community who might have good ideas for the improvement of our beautiful village. Thus I hope that at the Annual Open Meeting villagers will come prepared to suggest any projects that the Parish might wish to consider.

Over the last 12 months the PC have deliberated on 9 planning applications and 6 applications relating to tree work. All were subsequently approved or are currently waiting decision notices by North Northants Council (NNC).

Since last year's open meeting parishioners will have noticed that:

- The Give Way road markings at the bottom of Deene Road have been renewed and a Give Way is to be erected prior to the Junction.
- The hedge that runs beside Seaton Road up to the County boundary has recently been cut back. With the continued, welcome support, by the landowner it is hoped that this trim of vegetation will be carried out annually.
- Under a working party organised by Cllr Walsh road-side vegetation has also been cut back further along Seaton Road.
- A Tommy figure was purchased to be placed on the green annually in front of the Church gates for the duration of the Remembrance period.
- Work on the Jubilee Green was completed in time for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum jubilee celebrations. In particular I wish to thank Phil Moody for providing his mini digger and time to lay the concrete base for the trough.
- Less visible perhaps, a tree survey has been carried out in the Church Yard and some ongoing maintenance work will be required over the year.
- The "20 is plenty stickers" have now been circulated to all those who wish to place one on their rubbish bin.

In an effort to reduce car parking on the verge by Jubilee Green the PC have investigated the installation of bollards. Unfortunately, NNC Highways will not permit the erection of bollards on the verge in this area. As a compromise the PC have applied to Highways for a licence to plant some shrubs by the verge to protect the green.

The state of the roads continues to be an issue throughout the County as well as the village. Of particular concern are the verges to Seaton Road, as you leave the village, where the edge is crumbling away creating a drop off the road if a car pulls to the side to let a larger oncoming vehicle pass. Efforts to get Highways to repair the edge of the road continue. Additionally, over the past year the PC has been trying to get the advisory 20mph limit upgraded to a statutory limit. Despite our efforts the NNC road safety team rejected our request. The PC has appealed this decision and will be engaging with our Ward Cllrs to gain their support for this proposed change to the speed limit.

Despite many inflationary costs the PC finances are in a good state enabling the PC to limit this year's rise in the precept to just 3%. As previously mentioned, the PC are keen to hear

from villagers of any proposals for one-off projects that might improve our Village. Please contact any one of your Cllrs or if preferred contact the Clerk with your suggestions.

I continue to be assisted by a committed team of Cllrs who freely give up their time to serve our community for which I am ever grateful. We are all here to help and, when within our powers, are keen to do so.

Andrew White

Chair Harringworth Parish Council

11th April 2023