

Report of the Chair of Great Finborough Parish Council to the Annual Village Meeting – 18 May 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarise the main activities of the council since May 2021.

Annual Village Meeting (AVM) – 2021

The AVM held on the 6 May 2021 was the second since this PC's election. There was no AVM in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The 2021 AVM reports were received from Chair of the PC, The District and County Councillors, St Andrews Church, the Pettward Hall management committee, The garden Club, the Allotment Association, The Village Newsletter, the Community Speedwatch , and Woodpecker Hill Volunteer group.

Parish Council (PC)

The elected Parish councillors from 2021 to 2022 were,

Simon Tarabella (chair)
Sebastian Reeves (vice chair)
James Spencer

with Peter Turner, Norman Vendittelli, Simon Waspe, and Sharon Shipp who were all co-opted onto the council. Norman Venditelli stood down in January 2022 and was replaced by Lee Morgan.

Parish Clerk

Paula Gladwell continues to serve as our Parish Clerk and once again I would like to express the Councillors thanks to her for her guidance and support over the past year. The council regard themselves as very lucky to have such an experienced and knowledgeable Parish Clerk to guide them.

Responsibilities and Issues addressed in 2021/2022

Precepts, Budgets and Finances

The final accounts for year ending 31 March 2022 were approved. In November of 2021, the Budget Working Group provided reports that enabled the council to make decisions about the future investments in Estate maintenance, facilities and services for which it is responsible. In January 2022, the Budget Working Group recommended the budget for 2022/2023. It was resolved to approve the budget as recommended, which generated a precept requirement of £14,136. This is a nominal increase over the previous year, resulting in an additional £2.05 per Band D household for the year. I am grateful to the councillors who assisted me in assuring an effective process for the setting of the precept.

A review of the effectiveness of the council's governing arrangements and systems of internal control have been carried out and the controls were effective.

Planning

The Council met regularly to discuss planning applications submitted to MSDC, to register its views on them, and to note decisions made by MSDC.

The appeal against the District council's decision to refuse building permission for 28 houses on land adjacent to Buxhall Lodge was turned down by the Secretary of State. The planning

application to build 9 houses on land owned by the Golf Club in the vicinity of St Andrews Church was withdrawn after strong objections by all consultees and local residents. The planning application for a further 19 houses, including 9 affordable homes on land to the rear of Pear Tree Place is about to go to committee. The PC have submitted a response of "No Objection at this time".

What has the Parish Council achieved over the last year?

In addition to the normal estate maintenance and management of the village, several projects were overseen by the Parish Council.

Refurbishment of the village play park area

Housing Needs Survey

Provision of white entrance gates to the Onehouse end of the village

Path maintenance and chipping at Woodpecker Hill – Report to follow

Engagement and discussions with concerned bodies over flooding along Coombs lane

Consultation on street lights

Fencing to Allotments car park

Repair of Solar speed sign at Hitcham end of village – Thanks to Ian Cameron for his hard work in sourcing and fitting components.

Supported and financed the village newsletter – report to follow

Repair and maintenance to Herb Garden. - Thanks go to the Garden Club members who continue to look after and maintain the plants in the Herb Garden.

Allotments

The allotments continue to be well managed by the Gt Finborough Allotment Association, and they are maintaining the hedges and footpaths around the allotments. The association will report in due course. Thanks go to the members who continue to look after and maintain the plants in the Herb Garden.

Pettiward Hall

Another difficult year for the Pettiward Hall Management Committee as we slowly move out of the Covid 19 Pandemic. The committee will report in due course.

Post Office Van

The mobile post office van operates in the village car park every Thursday 1.45 to 3.15. This has been extremely useful during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Village Services

Newsletter

The Council continues to provide a newsletter to all households in the village. I will be giving a report later in the meeting.

Litter and Litter picks

Eddy Hines and Rufus Gardener are employed to pick litter in the central areas of the village. The first communal litter picks since the Covid 19 pandemic took place on Sunday 15 May. The PC

would like to thank individual village members who have carried out litter picking during their regular exercise walks.

Estate Management of the Greens and other Parish owned land.

The Council continues to employ contractors for maintenance of our greens their trees, the playing field and associated footpaths. Our contractor, Green Scene have carried out the estate maintenance in an exemplary manner and will continue in that role in 2022/23.

Future Council projects.

The PC intend to take forward the following items over the next year:

Taking forward the results of the Housing Needs Survey

Replacement of the Parish owned street lights

Provision of white entrance gates to the Hitcham end of the village

Provision of a new village notice board made from sustainable materials.

Provision of a street style party to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee

Resolution to the flooding along Coombs lane and by the junction with the B1115

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to Paula and all the Parish councillors for all their hard work and dedication over the last 2 years in achieving many of our aims and goals.

Simon Tarabella

May 2022