

Annual Report 2021

Chedgrave Parish Council

It is with great pleasure I present the Annual Report of Chedgrave Parish Council for the year 2020/2021. This has been the most disruptive period of time in the history of the Council, Country and the world. We have had our face-to-face meetings banned and forced to undertake remote meetings by “zoom” and “go to meetings” with all the problems this form of meeting produces. Luckily, we have been well schooled by our Clerk, Hayley, who has managed to get nearly all our meetings up and running throughout the year and we have been able to conduct the business of the Council, and we are very grateful to her for this.

During the year two Councillors resigned, Emma Guymer and Fiona Husband and their contributions to the running of the Council was sorely missed. However we have managed to gain another, namely Richard Seel who is settling in very well. Our Clerk, Hayley Goldson has proved to be a great asset to the parish and her dedication has kept the work of the Council on track, thank you.

Throughout the year there have been re-occurring topics for discussion and noting, namely the reinstatement of the Wherryman’s Way footpath beside Hardley Floods, White Horse Plain and Jubilee Oak, The Grebe Drive play area and the perennial question of when the A.146 Roundabout at George Lane will commence. I can report that there has been very little progress on the Wherryman’s Way as no one will take on responsibility and the inevitable costs involved, although thanks go to Cllr. David Johnson for pursuing this matter. The Broads Authority have said they will deposit the dredgings from the Chet on the bank but there is a timescale problem. The footpath is still closed but access up to the bird hide is still possible although the hide itself is inaccessible. Much better news on the White Horse Plain where the latest application has been granted planning permission the effect of which will have the least impact upon the local residents parking arrangements. Similarly I can report that the Grebe Drive Play area has now been completed and opened to the public in late March this year with thanks to the many individuals involved in the planning, delivery and fundraising for this. The A.146 George Lane Roundabout latest is that work is due to start in Spring 2021 but this has been a moving feast for several years and will only be believed when work actually starts.

The Council has achieved the registration of the White Horse Plain, The Pits and the Loddon & Chedgrave Playing Field with the Land Registry as well as the transfer of land from South Norfolk to the Council at the Multi Use Games Area. Lately the Council has moved to “On Line” banking making transaction much smoother. Another major improvement to the area is the provision of a phone mast near the BT exchange, which this Council supported and has been striving to achieve for some time. The Clerk has produced an updated asset register for the Parish of great value in identifying items belonging to the parish and their value.

Traffic has been the focus of complaints to the Council, especially on Langley Road. The problems were exacerbated when roadworks closed the Langley Road near the industrial units. Thanks go to Cllr. Bob Demain for his work with the SAM2 sign which is aimed at keeping traffic speeds low throughout the village. There is concern that if the proposed development site at Langley Road/ Snows Lane gets the green light then there will be real problems for traffic at the White Horse junction. Development is occurring on Pits Lane and Norwich Road which are extending the development boundary.

The Council is engaged with Loddon Parish Council in the early stages of producing a Neighbourhood Plan which it is hoped will shape the future of development in the area.

Sadly, Coronavirus has meant that the popular Brian Clarke Room has been closed for most of the year, but we are looking forward to re-opening soon with our Booking Officer Georgina Buckle ready to welcome regular and new users alike. Covid 19 also put paid to our traditional Easter Egg hunt last year but it didn't stop the Council from putting on a very pretty display of Christmas lights around the village and leading up into Loddon; many thanks to house holders for giving permission for this and to Andrew Carver and team at Loddon DIY for their work.

For the future Chedgrave PC are looking to deliver the improvements to White Horse Plain and the upgrade of the Pits Play area and improvements to Community Engagement. After 50 years of editing Chet News, Jack Barwick has retired and Chet Contact has become the new community magazine. The Council contributes to this and has also begun to post updates via Facebook as well as the existing website, Other activities are being considered.

There is currently a vacancy for a Councillor and anyone interested should contact the Clerk (Chedgrave.pc@gmail.com)