

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2023

The last twelve months have seen the transition from the social isolation years of Covid, to our village life beginning to return to normal, with events, clubs and societies reopening. The Jubilee Celebration last Summer saw one of the biggest gatherings of villagers in decades, all enjoying the good weather and the opportunity to celebrate the 70 years of dedicated service from Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Next month we look to jointly celebrate the coronation of His Majesty The King with a similar gathering at Bullock Park. It is truly heart-warming to see the community coming together for these events.

As ever, the community is served and supported by the Reverend Laura Purnell and her team at All Saints Church, along with the members of the Parochial Parish Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Parish Councillors for their support and input throughout the year. This is a particularly busy period for Shipdham with the new housing developments heralding the future growth of the village population. Likewise, our Parish Council has changed over the last year, welcoming in new faces and saying goodbye to some of our longer served. We strive to continually improve our service to the community through maintaining our training and skills and look forward to gaining Mindful Village status in the coming months.

I would also like to give huge thanks to our Clerk, June Smith, for all of her hard work and guidance over the last year. She is instrumental in making our meetings run as smoothly as they do and for ensuring that all Parish Council communications are managed.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our two Breckland District Councillors, Paul Hewett and Lynda Turner, and not forgetting our Norfolk County Councillor, Ed Connelly.

It is said that "time stands still for no man" and this is equally true of village life. As our village population expands, we will see new challenges and opportunities to grow as a village to support them, and I have every confidence in our ability, as your Parish Council, to do so for the benefit of the whole community.

Finally, I would like to thank our parishioners for supporting and attending our Parish Council meetings, engaging with our Councillors and providing input and suggestions as to how we may improve village life.