

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 22nd MAY 2023

The Chairman will welcome any members of the public who may be attending and advise that immediately following the Chairman's Annual Statement, members of the public may raise any queries or comments either in relation the Annual Statement or any other matter.

Annual Statement

The Parish Year just ended was another very busy year for the Parish Council. We are now blessed with a new and very efficient clerk Abbi. After much anguish and reasoning we managed to hold our council to 10 members in Cheshire East's round of Community Governance reviews.

Neighbourhood Plan

In order to keep our Neighbourhood plan current it was necessary for us to commission a 5 year Housing needs survey which was completed late last year. Thanks to our Co-ordinator Janet.

Planning

This year your Parish Council has spent considerable time and effort considering 25 planning applications, more than ever. It is noted there seems to be a backlog of the more complex applications – we have 7 of them awaiting decisions. This is frustrating to all concerned.

Highways

Potholes 90 fixed on Crewe Rd but is in a poor state again, this is a regular concern to councillors and residents. We need to keep reporting them on Fix my Street. Some long term issues have been escalated by the council and we continue to push for road safety improvements to the Parish. The Siding out of our Audlem Road pavement has been started and looks much better and we are looking at options for its maintenance. The Go Too bus has finally been allowed to visit Walgherton, a help to residents there.

HS2

Your chairman and ward councillor have represented the parish at local HS2 community liaison meetings in order to lessen the impact on of HS2 construction on the parish. The replacement of our local HS2 Community area5 Coordinator with a distant one late last year resulted in less frequent meetings and Government decision to mothball it for 2 years has curtailed current activities

Finance

The accounts and internal controls of the Parish Council have been examined by the Auditors and found to be satisfactory. We have received small amounts of Community Infrastructure Levy money from Cheshire East which has been duly well spent on village improvements, more about that later. The Council's Balance sheet and Receipts and Payments report are available for inspection upon request.

Your Parish Council has this year given donations to

- Audlem Community Responders, a service which provides urgent medical response in the area
- Audlem and District Community Action a service for the more vulnerable community members.
- Stoke Air Ambulance, a further service which provides urgent medical response.

Health

Local health initiatives continue to be advertised via our noticeboards. Regarding the support for older people in the community local charity ADCA has just been successful in obtaining some funds from the National Lottery and enabled a new dementia club to be started in Audlem and other local support schemes

ADCA is always looking for more volunteers, including drivers, to work alongside ADCA staff in running community health groups. This has been in service ferrying Hatherton residents to and from ADCA events.

Improvements Group

An innovation for the Parish- we have achieved so much this last year, Defibrillator, Park Lane Bench, the north Park Lane finger post rescued from the ashes, death defying cleaned and repaired road signs, installation of "Take you Litter Home " signs in the laubys. Litterpicks were also completed in Autumn and Spring trying to keep our neighbourhood looking tidy. Much of this improvements activity was expertly choreographed by Ex Vice Chair Deborah Robb who has moved away from the area. We shall miss her enthusiasm.

Local Policing and Homewatch

Our local PSCO Nick Jervis gives us monthly updates and we are grateful for his speed checks and regular visits to our council meetings. Homewatch continues to operate in some areas of the parish giving early warning of anti- social activities, scams etc and our Clerk currently circulates relevant policing and Homewatch alerts as they arise to those residents in email contact.

Communications

The Parish Council website, facebook. newsletters and email notices continue to be popular and fly the flag for us. Thanks is given to worthy volunteers Cllr Dibben for web hosting, and Katie, Abbi and Janet on social media. Long may this team continue.

The Parish Council

While I am thanking - The Annual General meeting gives me the opportunity to publicly thank all the Parish Council members for their time and contributions during the last twelve months, in particular those members who have attended meetings across Cheshire to represent the parish. We welcomed an exceptional new clerk in November and we look forward to stability and a long term relationship here

Chairman Chris Knibbs