

Chairman's Annual Report 2019

Welcome everyone to this year's Annual Parish Meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my council colleagues for their support over the last year.

Would you be kind enough to introduce yourselves to the attendees?

Similar to last year we will be having a more informal discussion with the community groups. They will be available for you to catch up and chat to during the refreshment break. After the break we will have a presentation on the results of the Community-Led Plan, followed by the Open Forum where you can ask questions of your councillors. If there are any that cannot be answered, we will take contact details and come back to you.

2018/19 has been another busy year with more projects being undertaken and the usual council business being transacted.

FINANCE

The precept for 2019-20 has been set at £98,869 meaning a 21.87% decrease in the average Band D property compared to the equivalent charge for 2018/19. This decrease is possible due to improved management of the council's earmarked reserves, prudent spending over the last 5 years and receipt of commuted sums over the recent years.

Longstanton Parish Council has continued to support village groups throughout the year, including part-funding the hire for Rainbow Baby Group, Music Madness, Little Leprechauns and LDHS. Funding has also been made available to Longstanton Limpers, Over 60s Lunch, MagPas, HomeStart, Northstowe Social Committee and Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing, all totalling £3,935.80.

HIGHWAYS & COUNTY COUNCIL

Longstanton Parish Council has worked closely with County Council and in particular County Councillor Hudson over the last year.

Even with the double yellow lines, ***parking*** remains a big concern for residents outside the Co-op. In the absence of police resource to monitor the area, the parish council has been looking into other measures we can undertake to highlight the lines and deter inconsiderate and illegal parking.

In conjunction with Oakington and Westwick, Longstanton were successful in applying for **Local Highway Initiative** funding which purchased a mobile vehicle speed sign. This sign is shared with Oakington and will be moved around the villages, four weeks at a time, to monitor traffic numbers and speeds in areas raised as hot spots by residents. All data received can be used as evidence were further highway initiatives to be considered.

Cllr Hudson has been instrumental in setting up **highways** meetings with our Local Highways Officer and Cllr Hudson's parishes. This has enabled face to face contact with the officer and his line manager which has meant we have a better understanding of highways issues and how the County council deals with them.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

We welcomed District Cllrs Cheung Johnson and Malyon to represent Longstanton in May 2018. Longstanton Parish Council has worked closely with South Cambridgeshire District Council over the last twelve months on many fronts. Some of these examples include Clive Hall Drive pavement, Northstowe contracts working outside of working hours.

PLANNING/CONSULTATIONS

Planning applications for consideration by the parish continue to increase. Extra planning meetings are held on the last Monday of the month if required to make sure representations are made to the planning authority as necessary. Please keep an eye on the website for up to date information on current planning applications in the parish.

Northstowe

Northstowe is now in full swing with work being carried out on Phase 1 and 2. At the time of writing the number of dwellings occupied stands at 316 across several parcels on Phase 1.

Following the suggestion by Longstanton Parish Council in February 2018, that SCDC delay their Community Governance Review for Northstowe for a minimum of 12 months, it has been confirmed that the review will commence in Autumn this year. The process is not a quick one and we ask that you please make your views known to South Cambs when the opportunity arises. To outline this process, South Cambs will be opening a public consultation in Autumn this year asking for people's opinions on the boundary of Northstowe and where it meets Longstanton, Willingham, Rampton and Oakington & Westwick. With a 12-month consultation it is not a quick process. Comments made by residents will then be taken into account to form the basis of the decision to be made.

Longstanton Parish Council continues to be represented at the quarterly Northstowe Community Forum meetings. The potential dewatering of the Kingfisher and other village ponds continues to be of concern to the parish council. We continue to support local residents in trying to find out if this is simply due to lack of rainfall or something more serious.

OTHER WORK

Home Farm phase 2 roads are still not adopted. When reporting last year, the council was under the impression that the process was nearly at conclusion. Unfortunately, due to delays – mainly from the solicitors for the administrators, the adoption work is still ongoing. We are assured that this is not an isolated case and other areas across the country are facing similar experiences.

The transfer of the Central Open Space to the council is tied up with the road adoption. Council members are also working with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the landowner about the possible transfer of the **Recreation Ground Extension** to council ownership.

In December we launched the new village **website**. We hope you find it bright and engaging. Please visit Longstanton-pc.gov.uk and see for yourself.

We held the first **Open Air Cinema** last June. The event was sold out and proved to be very popular. This year, along with a group of residents, the '**Longstanton Big Weekend**' has been created. We trust you will support the various groups and residents working to make this a success.

The Clerk initiated the first **Remembrance Sunday** parade with residents meeting at the Village Green to walk along the poppy lined High Street to All Saints Church in time for the Remembrance Sunday service.

The second **Longstanton Living Advent Calendar** was held in 2018 with 32 windows across Longstanton and Northstowe.

With the installation of a permanent power supply to the village green, the **Christmas Light Switch On** was a hit once again in December. We were lucky enough to include stallholders from the **Village Market**.

Our clerk has passed (with merit) her Level 4, Higher Education Certificate in Community Governance. We wish her well with her studies towards Level 5 – which is the equivalent of a Foundation Degree.

Cllr John Street, Chairman