

2022 Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

This year started off with more COVID restrictions, with virtual meetings. However, we managed to meet face to face from June 2021.

The flooding of the Boundaries is still an issue. We are trying to resolve this, trying to find ownership of the land

Environment Agency is still working on the rebuilding of the walls of the River Waveney.

Our long-standing Clerk Julia Punt retired in February and the new Clerk Tina Newby started in March. We have moved our meetings from a Wednesday to a Tuesday to accommodate the new Clerk.

During the year there was correspondence by South Norfolk about more houses being built using the Village Cluster scheme. So far, we have not had any feedback from the comments submitted by the Parish Council.

On Saturday 16th October a small group of volunteers met to take part in the twice-yearly litter pick in Gillingham. The team recovered a large amount of rubbish, including...
4 large bags from the A146 (bypass), mostly drink and food containers, many from Costa coffee and McDonalds.
McDonalds have now setup their own litter pickers on a regular basis, for Gillingham, Geldeston and Aldeby.

Marsh Line footpath has now been adopted as a footpath. We as the Parish Council now have some legal obligations with upkeep of the footpath and the respective gates/styles. The Clerk and Cllr Warman has walked the footpath and are looking into ownership of the footpath, the marshes at the sides and funding for the gates/styles. This footpath could join to Beccles and Geldeston, and will be a great project to be involved with.

Throughout the year we have had two councillors leave. One place has been filled and one is being advertised. If this does not go through the bi-election route, we will then be able to co-opt at the June meeting.

At the end of last year our grass cutting contractor Clinks Farm, stated their contract will be terminated. This resulted in obtaining 3 quotes. This is an issue as all the quotes obtained were very much higher than what was previously paid.

Business has continued pretty much as usual with ongoing village issues being solved as best as they can be.

This year and last year the parish council have been awarded CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money with a promise of more to come. The Parish Council are still open to ideas on how to spend the money. We are currently pursuing the idea revamping the Gillingham playground. Renaming this to Gillingham Jubilee Playground.
Any ideas on what we could spend the CiL monies on, would be gratefully received. We do have guidelines on how we spend this money and we have a due date of five years, before the money will have to be refunded back to South Norfolk Council. Of course the Parish Council, does not want this to happen.

Thank you to the rest of the councillors and the parish clerk new and old, for there help and support this year.

Cllr Rae Massingham
Chairman