

Hopton-on-sea Parish Council (HPC)

Chairman's annual report

May 2021 to May 2022

The Parish Council is non-political and is the third tier of government. All Councillors are volunteers and give up their free time to help the community of Hopton-On-Sea. If you would like know more or become a Councillor then please get in touch with Julie McNair our clerk based in the Village Hall. E-mail: hoptonParishclerk@hotmail.com or telephone 01502 730768.

In May 2021, I was voted back on as chairman of which I accepted and Cllr. Jan Windsor-Luck was appointed vice-chair. Cllr. Carl Annison stood down as Hopton Parish Councillor as he was elected as Norfolk County Councillor for this area as well as being our local GYBC Councillor so we would like to thank him for his dedication and wish him well. At the end of June Cllr. Ebony Halladay stood down as Councillor and we thanked her for her time and wished her good luck in the future.

We welcomed three new Parish Councillors this year - Keith Bradley, Yvonne Bradley and Pamela Oakes. I would like to take this time to welcome them on board.

In view of Covid19, our monthly meetings had to be via zoom until May 2021 when we saw lockdown being eased slightly and Hopton Holiday Village and Potters resorts opened their doors again. No more sitting outside the local pubs in the cold. In June we held our first public meeting in over a year in the Village Hall, attended by a few members of the public. A blue plaque commemorating the community's resilience in the year of the pandemic 2020 – 2021 has been installed on the front wall of the Village Hall.

Towards the end of May 2021, HPC purchased two memorial benches. The first one was installed in the grounds of the Millennium Garden, near the ruins, by the Contract Gardener and myself.

Before the 6th June (D-day) we placed the second one in the grounds of St. Margaret's church, at the top of the entrance path. They both look great.

We saw Hopton Harriers football club back at the Recreation Ground practising and playing football again. It's always great to see the field being used. However, the pitch is sometimes in a poor state where dogs have dug it up. Not only is this unacceptable, it is dangerous for the players, so please stop letting this happen. We have still got a problem with dog poo in the village. Please pick up after your dog. It is an offence not to do so.

The Parish Council started an initiative/campaign to purchase and install glow in the dark "we are watching you" dog poo posters in the hope that the few irresponsible dog owners will pick up after their dog/s.

Work was carried out to one of the ladies toilets at the Pavilion Building. This included underground pipe work as tree roots were causing blockages. The heating system at the Pavilion Building has been repaired so that hot water is now available again.

On July 4th 2021, there was a “thank you” picnic in the park on the Recreation Ground, organised by Carole and Ian Wall and other residents. It was a great day with a big turn out and the weather held for us all. On behalf of HPC and residents, I would like to say thank you to the organisers and everyone that took part.

As this day was a great success HPC asked Carole and Ian if they would like to organise a party in the park for the Queens Golden Jubilee, with the help and assistance of the Parish Council. Our application for Lottery Funding was successful. This event is to take place on 4th June 2022 and will be a fantastic day for the whole of Hopton. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

Early in 2021 building work started on the 200 new homes on Lowestoft Road just past the Co-op and approx 16 bungalows on Lowestoft Road near Noel Close. We have had to contend with a few road works while the pipe work for amenities was installed. A few complaints came into HPC about the site near Noel Close and the state of the foot path, which were duly noted, passed onto B.

Cllr. Carl Annison who sought to rectify the problems.

With the new developments in the village, the Parish Council has also once again written to Royal Mail asking for an additional post box in that vicinity.

The planning application in relation to development at Links Road continues to rumble on. The Parish Council is consultee on applications and this one will go before GYBC development control committee for a decision. We await the hearing date.

We hear the frustrations of residents regarding the limited opening hours of Hopton surgery. Accordingly we wrote to the Norfolk & Waveney CCG twice asking when consideration would be given to longer opening hours.

Towards the end of November 2021, the village sign at the entrance to Hopton was removed for renovation as it was looking a bit old and tired. After a few months drying out, it was refurbished and re-installed in early April 2022.

In November 2021, the Parish Council’s Contract Gardener planted some Laurels at the side of the entrance to the Recreation Ground with anti weed fabric so some of the horrible weeds that have been growing would be no more. This is only a test-patch and if successful HPC will consider extending the Laurel planting along the fence line.

The Parish Council planted new trees (saplings) in the Recreation Ground as part of Norfolk County Council’s objective of planting 1million trees in Norfolk.

In March 2022, HPC planted two cherry blossom trees in the Millennium

Garden to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. In attendance were Cllrs. from Hopton, some children from Hopton CE Primary Academy, and His Worship the Mayor Cllr. Adrian Thompson and Mayoress Jenny Thompson of Great Yarmouth. Both trees were donated by Great Yarmouth In Bloom.

Towards the end of May 2022, the Parish Council will be gifting Queen’s Platinum Jubilee commemorative mugs to all pupils and staff at Hopton CE Primary Academy.

Financial donations were made to help various groups in the village. Support grants were applied for and distributed to help families in need of assistance in Hopton.

Thank you to the FOOSM (Friends of Old St. Margarets) who have tended the boat, apple trees and planted new hedging along the front fence. The group have stepped down after many years of volunteering and we thank them for their hard work and dedication over the years. The Parish Council's Contract Gardener will continue to maintain the Millennium Garden.

HPC organised three community village litter picks - 21st June 2021, 25th September 2021 and 2nd April 2022.

Looking forward, the Parish Council has organised a free skateboarding, bmx, scooter event at the Recreation Ground for Saturday 20 August 2022. We hope many families and young people will attend and get involved, or just come along and watch the demonstrations.

I'd like to thank all Parish Councillors, volunteers delivering village news magazine on a monthly basis, volunteer litter pickers and everyone involved in the running of the Parish Council and associated facilities.

Cllr Chris Ward,
Chairman Hopton Parish Council
May 2022