



Pulham Market Parish Council Chair's Report

Annual Parish Meeting 13th March

It has been a busy year for everyone especially as we currently have three vacancies on the Council. At last year's Annual Meeting, Council sadly accepted the resignation of Mike Newby who retired having been a Councillor for over 20 years and Vice-Chair for 10. Council expressed their sincere gratitude for his commitment to the Council and Parish. Later in the year Cllr Darbshire also resigned and Council expressed their gratitude for his work and support.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations in Pulham Market were well supported. The Church provided a very uplifting service of thanksgiving including an excellent performance by the school choir. The entertainment provided by the Pulham Players and the local public houses was appreciated by both villagers and visitors. Despite the light drizzle of rain, the 'Big Jubilee Picnic Lunch' on the Green proved to be a great opportunity for villagers to get together with friends and meet new residents whilst a rousing selection of recorded music from the Queen's reign, supplied by Paul Turner, played in the background.

These celebrations were made poignant by the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September. Council expressed their sorrow and sincere gratitude for the dedication and service The Queen had given the country.

Community led plans for a Celebration to mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III are currently under discussion.

Council was pleased to support the Pulham Market Memorial Hall committee with a grant towards the refurbishment of the Hall roof. The Memorial Hall is owned by the Parish Council but managed by an autonomous Management Committee. Procurement of grant funding towards the major repair from the Broadland and South Norfolk Council Community Action Fund had also been successful. The work was carried out most efficiently during the summer months of 2022 following upgrading of much of the Hall's infrastructure made possible by volunteers, most especially Darryl Parr, the Chairman of the Hall Committee.

Parish Council have submitted a bid through the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership scheme, to support the procurement of Quiet Lane signage in Guildhall Lane. This matter is ongoing and will be met by match funding from Parish funds.

Council continue to monitor all planning issues throughout the year. A village walkabout with Saffron Housing Trust was organised in January to look at communal areas Saffron are responsible for. The Council are keen to work with Housing providers operating within the village, ensuring any maintenance work required is highlighted, improving the overall appearance of the village. This walkabout included discussion on maintenance of the large London Plane tree in the Falcon Road car park.

The paper bank at the recycling centre in Falcon Road was no longer being used and the local authority has confirmed this should be removed. The other recycling bins will remain and the £200 annual grant will still be received.

Unusually, this year, due to the abundance of bank holidays during April and May, dates of meetings will not fall on Mondays during these months

District Council and Town/Parish Council Elections will take place on Thursday 4th May 2023. It is hoped that parishioners will consider joining the Parish Council. Details of how to apply are on the SNC website or available from our Clerk.

Parishioners have again shown interest in attending the defibrillator training which will be organised in mid-2023.

The Beckvale Community car scheme has been discontinued after over 20 years. Residual moneys will be allocated to Pulham Market and Pulham St Mary Parish Councils and South Norfolk Council.

The Parish Council spent considerable time and effort in applying for adverse possession of the village car park with The Land Registry. Regrettably, we were not able to conclude the process.

Both the Parish Council website and Facebook page have recently been updated by our Clerk and through these we are able to communicate up-to-date information regarding village organisations, planning, events and SNC local council information to parishioners. We also continued to produce our Village Diary and are fortunate that we have willing volunteers to deliver this to over 400 households around the parish. In addition to matters already referred to our ongoing work includes

- Issues regarding Public Rights of Ways which have been monitored and reported to District Council by both residents and by our village footpath warden, Sue Hewitt, We continue to remind landowners of the benefit to the community of keeping footpaths accessible and all parishioners to remain aware of problems caused by trees and bushes overhanging the footways.
- The village grass cutting continues to keep our open spaces in good order. Conditions at the Churchyard and Burial Ground are monitored regularly. Street lighting defects have been reported whenever necessary.
- The policies/standing orders and Action Plan have been reviewed and implemented and Council have recently adopted a new Code of Conduct policy. All these documents are available on the parish website.
- The annual Christmas Tree installation and lighting took place and was a welcome and very attractive presence during both Decembers.

Our **SAM2** monitoring results are collected and fed back to the Police on a monthly basis thanks to the diligence of one of our councillors. The SAM2 is moved to a different position every four weeks and the figures are published on our website. The Police have recently monitored speeding traffic within the Parish..

In closing I would like to mention all the clubs, organisations and events which make our village so inclusive and such a good place to live whilst acknowledging the hard work and dedication of volunteers who are associated with making this possible. I would personally like to thank all our Councillors and our clerk, together with our District and County Councillors, Clayton Hudson and Martin Wilby, for their continued support and hard work. Members of the parish are always made welcome at our meetings.

Ann Ford

Chair, Pulham Market Parish Council

13th March 2023