

Chairman's Report.

Good Evening All and Welcome.

Again this has been a very strange year for everyone, including the Parish Council. This will be our first 'live' meeting of the year.

Some things have progressed. The speed sign in All Saints Rd has been reinstated; We are awaiting a training session re Community Speedwatch; this has been on hold due to Covid. The container has been 'kitted' out with cages and is being used for storage various. Thankyou Paul Scully for organising the cages, ably assisted by Brian Day.

The Parish Council has now taken over the area of woodland running from Flordon Rd to Needham Lake. As the land was donated to the village by the late Audrey Lilley it is to be renamed, Lilley's Wood. My thanks to Hugo Craggs for starting the process of getting volunteer help to progress the site and find uses for it, e.g. school trips. Hopefully now we are moving out of 'Lockdown' the work can proceed.

Once again, Hugo has been instrumental in obtaining trees and hedging plants from Suffolk Woodland Trust, and with William Barnes has planted them around the village for future generations to enjoy.

Again this year, the verges will be left to grow hopefully allowing wild flowers to flourish and encourage wildlife.

There has been a large number of planning applications and new properties being built. One bonus to this is the CIL monies received. This year some of this has been used to improve the rear patio at the Village Hall. Resurfacing, refencing and providing new bench tables. The fence at the front of the Hall is also to be improved. In the pipeline, using CIL monies, are steps up to the bottle bank at the front of the Hall and a concrete slab for the bottle bank, hopefully broken glass can then more easily be removed. A track along The Drift, the pedestrian path down the lefthand side of the Hall, across to the play equipment on Blacksmith's Field is also under investigation. My thanks to Jan Palmer for her work on this and Blacksmith's Field generally.

Once again my thanks to all the Councillors who have worked hard throughout a very difficult year and to Jennie Blackburn for successfully organising Zoom meetings and holding us all together. Also to Joan Hardingham and Kathryn Martin for the successful publication of the Parish magazine in these strange times.

Sue Haynes.

Chair, Creting St Mary Parish Council