

Hatley Parish Council

Chairman's report 2019 / 2020

As you can see, this meeting is being held via Zoom, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and I wish to acknowledge the efforts and thank villagers who have helped people during this difficult time. This matter is covered in greater detail in tonight's agenda.

Firstly I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their considerable input over the last year. Particular thanks also to Kim Wilde, our Parish Clerk, for her hard work and valuable guidance throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Heather Williams, District Councillor; and Sebastian Kindersley, County Councillor, for their contributions during the year, which have been particularly helpful on matters such as planning, the East-West Rail project and the A428 development.

During the year we have held five Ordinary Meetings and three Extraordinary Meetings, details of which are available on the [village website](#).

During the year your Council has responded to a number of planning requests, and approvals have been granted to applications at Barn Farm, Holbein's Farm and The Stud, Hatley Park.

The hard work at St Denis' church has continued and a full report is [annexed hereto](#).

During the year our new vicar, Hilary Young, joined us at the September meeting to discuss issues regarding the future use, maintenance and improvements needed at Hatley St George Church. A task force was formed, led by Councillor Astor. Some work has already begun to remedy matters needing attention at the church.

Both churches were open in September for Heritage Open Day and Historic Churches Trust's *Ride and Stride*.

Our application to the Zero Carbon Community Project for fixed solar powered speed warning signs was rejected. As it is not practical to add solar power to the existing signs, new batteries were purchased to replace the existing ones which died in January. Your Council has agreed to discuss the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the 'main' road through the village to 30 mph.

During the year the HVA continued its good work with events to raise funds and these included the February Quiz, monthly Coffee Mornings and the July Fête. Thanks to Mervyn Lack, John O'Sullivan and Sarah Titmus for their hard work.

As a result of the efforts of the HVA we were able to replace the two sets of internal doors in the village hall, resulting in a smarter appearance and greater heat efficiency through draught reduction.

Another major improvement planned for the hall this year has been the project to update the toilets and I should like to record my thanks to Peter Mann and his helpers in this connection. Unfortunately, our application for a grant was declined, largely as a result of priorities being given by the grant providers to Covid-19 linked projects. It is hoped that funds will become available in the future.

Work continues to go ahead with the Play Area and we now have two new sets of swings and a new mini-roundabout. It is hoped that a new Play Tower will be purchased – however this is dependent on availability of funds over the next 12 months.

The new Hatley website is now up and running, thanks to the efforts of Peter Mann and this is now a very useful source of information for all villagers.

Our annual litter pick, which is normally held in March, was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but we will revisit this later this year.

The Defibrillator Team continue their good work under the leadership of Martin Ward and the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service conducted another very useful training session in September.

Alan Pinney
Chairman, Hatley Parish Council
19th May 2020