

Hatley Parish Council's chairman's report on the Council's activity for the year 2025-2026

It has been a fairly quiet year for the Parish Council. The main preoccupation has been with potholes in the roads. The County Council's repair teams have now increased from 8 to 30. But it still relies on the public to report potholes, so please continue to do so.

The bank balance on the 31st of March 2025 was £16,169 and on the 31st of March 2026 it was £16,813. This reflects the fact that we have not yet had a major expenditure this year, although replacing the climbing frame will likely be the next one.

On the playing field another socket was put in for the goal posts so that its position can now be alternated to allow the patch in the goal mouth to recover.

On a cold November evening the Council met outside to discuss the wooden climbing frame, which had been closed in October due to its deterioration. It was decided that rather than try and raise the significant funds needed to replace it with a metal structure we would use village resources and retain the slide by building an earth mound underneath it, and add home grown obstacles to play on. That will rely on the ground being hard enough to carry out the work, which has now started.

In December the speed sign outside St. Georges tower was knocked over. It currently indicates speed, but is not recording data, but still serves as a deterrent.

Nigel Stevenson from Gamlingay has breathed new life into our local Neighbourhood Watch.

We've had two litter picks in October and March but they were not well attended with less than five people on each. Although it is a soul-destroying job, it is important to keep doing it so I would urge you please to join them.

The Village Hall is being well used and the dampness in the new bathrooms seems to have been solved by leaving the doors ajar. The website continues as a thorough source of information and I'm happy to say that Peter Mann now has some help in running it.

There have been continuing consultations pushed out to us all, but the proposal for a Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge is the most alarming in terms of democratic input, or rather a lack of it. The way it is currently framed our locally elected representatives will have a minority of power on the board, so the Government's wishes will be forced upon us. We also had local elections for Parish Councils and the District Council which occur every four years.

The Hatley Village Hall association (the HVA) was disbanded, with its members standing down due to low attendance at events and the high burden of putting them on. A village bonfire night was organised in February to assess interest in putting on community events. It generated some new volunteers for various local activities, such as Speedwatch and the website. However, a recent follow-up village drinks evening suggested that there is not a great deal of interest in putting on organised events. It was left that individuals will possibly put on one-off functions.

There has not been a significant amount of planning to deal with, however the appeal for the East Hatley corner plot was turned down.

And finally, I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council and our Clerk for their efforts in keeping the Council going.

Micky Astor
Chairman, Hatley Parish Council
19 May 26