

Hail Weston Annual Parish Assembly

March 20th 2018 at 7.30pm

Tony Baker welcomed twenty residents and speakers to the meeting.

Apologies received from Cllr. J Sugars.

Report from Hail Weston Parish Council Chairman Tony Baker

I'm very pleased to report that the PC realised full memberships in 2017 reaching its full capacity of seven in September. The council welcomed Peter Mailer in July, Pam Wilkie in August and Matthew Lobo in September 2017 last year.

The next parish elections will be held on May 3rd. If interested in becoming a parish councillor see any Cllr's or Clerk for further info and or a nomination pack.

The work of the council falls into two areas -

- Representing you on issues affecting the community such as planning the applications - 11 in the last year. (March 17-18) In the Autumn as you may know the PC were pressed to respond to a developer working on behalf of a resident whom had put a proposal to HDC to develop the land near the church (following a Call for Sites HDC Consultation in the summer). An active group of residents responded and lobbied the village and the PC to comment on this proposal on basis of lack of amenities, traffic management to name a few.
- Maintaining our open spaces - the allotments, playing field, the new cemetery and grassland.

The council strategy has been shaped by the Community Plan: -

- Communication – growth of the new website along with twitter and Facebook platforms
- Development of a playing field committee consisting of volunteers who have made playing field improvements, repaired and painted fencing and generally keeping the area spic and span. A Community Payback scheme has been applied for to carry out further playing field works.
- Garden of rest – donation of a bench to be sited in the area among the fruit trees.
- Highways - application to reduce the speed on the B645 is due to finally commence, improved signage including not suitable for HGV signs at ford end.
- Permissive Path to join existing R of W has been realised and enjoyed with kind permission from a land owner.

I want to thank all the village volunteers who help this village to become a more attractive and nicer place to live. Too many to thank individually but from those individuals who simply report issues on line or via our parish clerk such as potholes and fly tipping to those support the Church Restoration, Crime and Safety,

fb admin team, Gardening Group, Village Hall Committee, Mondays singing group, Bridge club apologies to any I have missed.

Many thanks to Maurice and Sue Lee for leading on this consistently popular community Café and funding the second village defibrillator with the help of Jenny McGlashan.

The end of February saw us organise the Annual litter pick with a fantastic 20 volunteers helping to clear 19 bags of rubbish. It was great, despite no equipment this year, volunteers worked collaboratively and used all resources.

Improvements to the village require money. The precept for 2018/19 was approved in November reflecting a small increase of 5%. Advice from both HDC and CCC is consistent with previous years - in that funding remains tight and undoubtedly services will be affected requiring the PC to do more.

District Councillor Jonathon Gray and County Councillor Ian Gardener do a sterling job at keeping HWPC informed of opportunity to shape consultations and wider county news. I would like to thank them both.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors' and Parish Clerk who have supported me in my first year as Parish Council Chairman.

Bob Jewell - Parish Chair Great Staughton

Time Banking - Hail Weston had been invited to join along other neighbouring parishes: Perry, Kimbolton, Great Staughton. Early stages but hopefully this could benefit all as well as helping others by joining the time bank turning spare time into shared time. Bob had been in touch with St Neots and Somersham who had very successful timebank set up where residents were sharing knowledge and skills with others in the community and rewarded in time. Errands like collecting a prescription to DIY were some of the services discussed. A resident enquired about insurance and it was confirmed that this point would need researching and Bob emphasised that there were other TB Coordinators who could assist with this.

Bob went on to discuss a Community Land Trust that had been formed on Charity Land in Great Staughton highlighting the 'journey' and successes over the last 3 years of aiming to provide affordable houses to residents with significant ties to Great Staughton. Potential of up to 10 houses which may be realised by 2019. Bob highlighted to Hail Weston as in the contract it was thought (not yet agreed) that one of the conditions, if there wasn't a wait list for such, could be for neighbouring parishes to access this opportunity after Great Staughton, Bob hoped that this could be replicated if indeed Hail Weston were in the future able to supply affordable housing.

Questions were taken by Bob from residents regarding Trustee's and Appointment of Trustee's, Right to buy, sub letting and Community Land Trust.

Report by Cllr Ian Gardener, County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton

Outlined below are some of the main areas of my work on the County Council. I am always available to discuss County Council issues with residents and to try and assist with issues. I can be contacted on 07970 613498 or by email at Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Following last year's County Council Elections in May, which were fought on new boundaries. There are 61 elected Councillors (or 'members'). The Conservatives were returned as the largest party in overall control of the Council, which had previously been in No overall control.

The result of the County Council Election was 36 seats Conservative, 15 Liberal Democrat, 7 Labour and 3 Independents giving the Conservatives a majority of 11 overall other parties.

In the new Alconbury and Kimbolton seat, which covers Hail Weston. I secured victory with in excess of 61% of the vote which gave me a majority of 960 votes over my nearest opponent.

The Alconbury & Kimbolton Seat covers 30 villages and 24 Parish Councils.

The Conservative Administration has maintained the Committee system as implemented by the previous council, but we now hold all the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions on the council.

I sit on the Highways & Infrastructure Committee and the Planning Committee of which I am the Vice Chairman. I also sit on the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority.

Since gaining control of the County Council we have looked at Children Centre provision, to see how the provision could be better implemented to suit the needs of parents and carers across the County, so that it provided the support when they most needed it. As a result the County Council is therefore changing the way we deliver our Children's Centre's offer by providing more outreach support, so that we can reach more parents and carers, rather than providing the service through buildings. Our nearest Children Centres are still in St Neots and Sawtry but once the new system is up and running by the end of April 2018 it should reach more people as and when they require the service.

From the 1st April 2018 the £1 parking charge at all Cambridge Park & Ride Sites will be removed as promised in the Conservative Manifesto. The implementation of the additional £1 parking fee saw a significant reduction in the use of the Park & Ride sites

The Local Highway improvement bids for 2018 will be approved at the Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting on 13th March.

The Cambridgeshire Catering and cleaning Service is going to be withdrawn by the end of this year. This is due to the increase in service providers in the market. The County Council has taken this decision now to enable us to support schools with a smooth transition to new providers.

The service will be working closely with staff and schools over the coming weeks, school-based staff are likely to TUPE to a new service provider. The County Council remains committed to ensuring that all school children receive a balanced and healthy meal.

The new A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge is well under way with the new section of A1 adjacent to Brampton nearing completion which will allow the new A14 to be constructed along the line of the old A1.

On completion of the A14 work is expected to commence on the duelling of the A428 between the Black Cat Roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet.

The County Council is actively looking at and working with the District Council to try and get the new rail link between Cambridge and Oxford to be constructed nearer to St Neots rather than Sandy, due to the large-scale developments planned for St Neots. I look forward to working with the Parish Council and residents over the next year. **Questions were taken by IG from residents regarding Infrastructure, A1 proposals.**

FINAL Report from District Councillor Jonathan Gray

I have been District Councillor for Hail Weston for the last 14 years but this evening marks the end of my formal connection with you. I will not be standing in the revised division on May 3rd. I would like to thank the Parish Council and the Clerk for their unfailing courtesy and warm welcome. Hail Weston is fortunate to have many socially-engaged people and I wish you well for the future.

Sadly, Hail Weston ceases to be in the Kimbolton Ward from this May's elections, and so my time as your District Councillor is drawing to a close. Here are some of the highlights (for me!) of my 14 years with Hail Weston:

- I regularly provided help and advice to residents and the Parish Council. I have averaged 8 PC meetings a year over that time – so that's more than 100!
- Back in 2004/5 I managed to secure funding for the cycleway to St Neots. Those were the days when 'underspent' money could be found in budgets!
- I spent time working with the PC to enable cemetery extension to be delivered.

Unquestionably the highlight was helping to ensure the survival of the Royal Oak as your village pub. I was able to use planning policy, planning enforcement and the 'Asset of Community Value' to ensure that this historic venue did not simply become another house.

Frustratingly road safety is little better now when I first arrived. This is a county Council responsibility over which I have little influence, but it is disappointing how little progress has been made.

I would like to thank resident of Hail Weston for the honour of electing me 4 times to represent you. This may, an election to a new HDC @Great Staughton Ward' will be held. I hope that whoever follows me will come to love and appreciate this tremendous community as much as I have!

A resident and Parish Council Chair thanked Cllr. J Gray for his support in assisting with the pub negotiations and indeed all support over the last 14 years. Questions were taken by JG from residents regarding Infrastructure, A1 and 2036 Local Plan.

Green hedge Energy UK (Email response read out by Cllr. Lobo)

Just as an update as to where we are with the solar farm. We are waiting for the outcome of the variation of condition application to extend the life of the solar farm to 40yrs. This should be issued on or around the 2/3/18 by Huntingdon LPA.

We have discharged all the conditions that relate to the solar farm project and we have applied for several minor amendments to the scheme that Huntingdon LPA have approved. These amendments relate to the position of a proposed access track leading into the solar farm of Kimbolton Road (Sharps Barn) and the timing of planting and landscaping in and around the site.

We are still talking to Investors and third parties in relation to selling the scheme to them. Whilst these negotiations are well advanced we are still not really able to advise you as to exactly when the scheme will be built out and construction will start. Obviously, we are looking at a deadline of September 2018 as this is when the planning permission expires so time is of the essence! We will of course keep you posted as to any new developments.

St Nicolas Church Report (read out by Church Warden Elaine McCarthy)

Having started work in the parish as your new priest in September 2017, I would like to thank all in the village, groups and individuals, for their warm welcome.

The Parochial Church Council is made up of a small number of very dedicated members who work hard to maintain the smooth running of the church. Thanks, is also due to all those people who help out with cleaning, flower arranging and maintenance tasks and all those who support the church in so many ways – eg. Christmas Tree and gutters etc. I feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated and supportive team.

Three regular Sunday services are held each month and one Morning service on the first Weds of each month at 10.00am followed by Coffee. The All Age Worship service on the first Sunday of the month at 3.00pm, is going from strength to strength under the worship team of Glenn and Maggie Coiley and Elaine. It is great that we are able to liaise with the Community Café, so that it takes place on the same Sundays as the all age worship, and we are very grateful for the Community Café team's support.

The church is also used by the community for other services, we had a Christmas and other services for Hail Weston Pre School Activity Group.

We have had one wedding, one funeral and one double baptism since I have arrived and have at least three weddings booked already for next year.

I am very pleased Monday Singers continue to flourish, practicing in the church and holding concerts there.

There has been great support for the church building and the Church community from the village as we look to the provision of toilet and refreshment facilities and a re-ordering which will, we hope, retain the beauty and peace of the building making it more accessible for many groups within the village, as well as repairing the tower. Many thanks are due to the Re-ordering Group for their hard work in negotiating their way through the complex system of making changes to an ancient building.

Fund raising for this has started and again we are very grateful to the support of the village for the trumpet concert and hopefully there will be many activities occurring during the coming months to enable us to raise the funds to keep the church open and active for the community. We have raised about a tenth of what we need so far for the re-ordering, and grants are being applied for.

We are hoping to start a youth group in the village, with Glenn and Maggie, who are experienced youth leaders, but will need a team of volunteers from parents and other villagers to help with this. We also ask for the support of the Parish Council in principle.

We have already planned and booked an exciting programme of activities for 6 -14 year olds at Grafham Water for the start of the Summer Holidays (do look in your Parish Newsletters for further details)

Churchwarden's Remarks.

It has been so good to welcome Rev'd Nicki Bland as our Parish Priest. Her energy and warm hearted approach, and her supportive ministry are really appreciated. Rev'd Nicki has some good ideas for the future of the church in this place and across the benefice, which we look forward to putting into practice. We are very fortunate to have her.

Anne Marie Hamilton thanked HWPC on behalf of the **Hail Weston Church Restoration Group** for permissions for siting the signage to reflect the monies raised for the restoration which stood at 30K.

Hail Weston Village Hall Committee
Presented by Dawn Isaac

Jill, Elaine, Penny, Rosemary, Cindy

We are tasked with the finance, maintenance and on-going rental of the village hall. It's not the most onerous committee in the world - we meet about 6 times annually and organise one or two fundraisers a year which help towards the cost of maintaining the building - the Race Night (this Saturday and there are still a handful of tickets left!) and the village fete which is held every other year - next one June 2019!

We are always looking for new general members, so please contact me if you'd like to get involved (dawn@dawn-isaac.com) - either on an ongoing basis or for a specific event like the fete.

The hall itself has been through a lot of updates over the last 10 years including a brand-new floor and new street side fencing. It's also regularly repainted and this year we are looking at a proposal from the pre-school to update the kitchen.

If you don't already know about them there are a lot of groups and activities held in the hall

The very successful Hail Weston Pre-School runs 5 days a week from 9.15am-2.15am.

The hall also plays host to Pilates and fitness classes on Monday evening, Bridge Club twice a month, a monthly gardening and wildlife group and regular Neighbourhood cafes. In the past we have also hosted karate, zumba, art classes, drama rehearsals and much more!

We are also a venue for fundraising events such as quizzes, race nights (there are still some tickets left... did I mention that?) and we were the location for the Pop-Up pub nights which was part of the campaign to save the Royal Oak.

And of course, we are available for private hire. If you're a villager, you get the venue for the bargain price of £8 per hour for a minimum 2 hour booking (or 5 hours for a Friday or Saturday evening)- or for anyone outside of the village it's still only £10 per hour.

Maurice Lee on behalf of the **Crime & Safety Group** outlined that the village directory had been distributed. The Cafe' was the result of many hands in the village making it work and grow to a popular event supported by residents. The monies raised at each café were for charities outside but also for village benefits too. The recent purchased 2nd defibrillator was a fantastic addition and imminently due. Maurice raised 3 locations of road safety issues that concerned him around the Ford End, Bend by Church and bend by Pound Close and urged for potential highway improvements to be explored. Suggesting 'mirrors' sited on corners could be a cost-effective way. TB suggested Speed limits, and this would remain on the PC Agenda.

Barry Easom encouraged all at meeting to look at Summary of **CLP** Actions suggesting that considerable actions had been achieved since publication in 2016. Barry took the opportunity to remind all that the plan was halfway through its life and it would be soon be time to start a new Plan.

A review of CLP community bank account (Treasurer Nick Abell, Authorised signatories are Andy James and Barry Easom) was summarised as follows: - Balance as at 20/3/18 £684.79

Community Plan Funds Jan. 2018 £374 of which £248 used for Business Directory.

Remaining monies left £125.

Second Defib funding totals raised £1700 including just giving of £75 Purchase of second defib £1336 electrical installation to be advised.

Cllr. Peter Mailer encouraged residents to sign into E cops online suggesting that much information was available using social media platforms such as fb twitter

Questions were taken by TB from a resident regarding new Cemetery and Community Led Plan.

PC Chair TB, thanked all Hail Weston Parish Councillors past and present.

Serving on the Parish Council is and should be an honour and I am as such duly honoured to be able to be here and address you all this evening, but like those have been before I will come to pass.

This is an election year for local councils. The Parish Council is a vital to a community such as Hail Weston and I ask you to please make sure that now and, in the future, we maintain our councillor numbers and not lose our Parish Council.

We are a small community and draw upon a limited number of able and willing people. Some share their time across several aspects of community life and need to be highly applauded. Remember that Parish Councillors are not volunteers they are unpaid elected members serving the community. The parish Council follows a code of conduct and a set of Standing Orders and it is a serious business. It must also be enjoyable and on my part, it is.

If anyone here tonight, or you know of anyone else, would like to join the Parish Council please let the Clerk know.

The meeting closed at 9pm. Refreshments were served.