

Hail Weston Annual Parish Assembly – Meeting March 17th, 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID -19)

The following reports have been received by invited speakers

Report from Hail Weston Parish Council Chairman, Jill Gooch

This year the Parish Council has maintained full capacity of seven. Darren Tysoe, our HDC Ward Councillor and Ian Gardener, our County Councillor have continued to do a great job at keeping Hail Weston Parish Council informed of opportunities to shape consultations and wider county news. I would like to thank them both.

We have continued with our two main areas of work –

Representing you on issues affecting the community such as planning applications – we saw 11 applications in the last year (Mar 19-Mar 20) which included 7 extensions or alterations to existing properties, 2 retrospective applications, 1 tree and a small new residential development.

And, maintaining our open spaces – the allotments have new fencing and there is ongoing maintenance in place for the playing field and new cemetery. Plans for the Garden of Rest have not worked out as expected and there will need to be some further thought regarding this asset.

Following publication of the Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan 2036, following several years of consultation, a resolution was made by the Parish Council to complete another Community Plan, to run following 2021. The 2016 Hail Weston CLP has led to many new developments for the parish in the past 5 years, since the plan was introduced. It was in October, when over 60 people attended a public meeting, the success of the existing plan was reviewed, and foundations were laid for the new plan. Nick Farnden is the lead on this new project.

Last summer the Parish Council put in a successful bid for Local Highway Improvement (LHI) funding. The request was to reduce the speed limit through the village down from 30mph to 20 mph. The current District Council estimate for implementation is spring 2020. This will include mobile speed signs to use both within the village and on the B645, hopefully proving to be a very useful tool in reminding drivers to check their speeds.

Last weekend, we saw the annual litter pick completed within an hour, with 15 adult and 7 children volunteers helping to collect the 15 bags of rubbish. Thanks to everyone who took part in this morning and to those other volunteers who clear rubbish regularly as they go around the village.

Unfortunately, as you will all probably be aware, there have recently been some break-ins within the village. There are many ways that you can protect your property and the local PCSO, Richard Braddick, would like to start up a Police Surgery in Hail Weston once a month, which is starting in May. 'Crime and Safety' is also a proposed topic for the Community Led Plan.

As the Hail Weston part of the solar farm has now been energised, we should soon be receiving a one-off payment of around £8700.00. This is a donation from the company as a Deed of Community Benefit.

The precept for 2020/2021 was approved in November, reflecting a small increase of 3.5%. Advice from both HDC and CCC is as ever - that funding remains tight and undoubtedly services will be affected, requiring Parish Councils to do more.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors, and of course our wonderful Parish Clerk, not only for all their hard work and commitment but also for their continued support to me in my role as Parish Council Chair. Unfortunately, there has been a resignation announced from our Councillor, Jane Sugars, who has been very valuable to the Council during her 4 years of service and she will be very much missed. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Parish Council, please feel free to speak to one or all of us at the end of this meeting.

And as always, many thanks to all the volunteers who continue to help this village to become a more attractive and nicer place to live. There are too many to thank individually.

Finally, I would like to remind all residents that the Parish Council meet monthly, except in December. The public are always welcome and may address the council on current matters or issues of concern in the Open Forum, which is always at the start of the meeting. Any matters raised for decision would become a future agenda item.

Report by Nicki Bland, St Nicolas Church

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support for St Nicolas Church. Particularly the Neighbourhood Café, the pub and the village hall committee for allowing our young people to meet for Band practice on a Thursday afternoon.

We continue to have a trickle of baptisms, weddings and funerals and this past year some of the weddings have been particularly eventful and joyful. We have a service every Sunday now, with traditional communion services in the mornings of the 2nd and 4th Sundays and All Age Worship services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 3.00pm.

The Creative Communion has been particularly successful with its modern service and music played by the band Our benefice Agricultural services are also held at St Nicolas. In addition to the Lammis service we had a well-supported Plough Service, a photograph of which made it on the front page of the Hunts Post.

About 8 young people attended our Summer camp last year and hopefully it will happen again this year.

Services will be posted via video link for those who are interested. Please let me know where I can help during these difficult times.

Tony Larkins – Director Hail Weston Pub Co Ltd

2019 saw a small drop in income over 2018, but we actually made a small profit – enough to undertake further renovations to the building to ensure that The Royal Oak remains in the best possible condition and continues to be an asset to the village environment.

The major change since last year has seen Alan taking over as Manager, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his days at Greene King, and Penny increasing her responsibilities as his deputy. The recently refreshed team at the pub has already shown a willingness to try out new

ways of engaging with the village – from themed food nights to a social committee helping to suggest and plan more village social events based around the pub.

As we're sure everyone will appreciate, the first few months of 2020 have been challenging for the business – not only with fears around Covid-19 but also the The Eaton Oak enjoying the expected honeymoon period with local trade following its recent renovation and reopening.

These are tough times for all but we feel confident that we will be able to continue to provide a venue for the village to connect and support each other, especially around social occasions like mother's day, meet ups for clubs such as The Bridge Club and The Carers Club and an even better West fest in August.

Report by Anne-Marie Hamilton, Chairman, St Nicolas Church Restoration Group

During the last few months, a great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes, as we prepare for the next stage of the project for St Nicolas Church.

I am delighted to tell you that we have now completed the following actions, and our architect was just preparing the final details so that we could apply for a Faculty which, once granted, would enable us to seek some major grants in order to start the first phase of the restoration, when, unfortunately, everything came to a grinding halt because of the outbreak of coronavirus. On the positive side, this is what has been happening in the intervening months, since our last update:

- We have appointed an archaeologist
- We have appointed a structural engineer who has already carried out the work on the foundations, and will return at a later date to carry out the structural assessment on the church tower.
- We have met all the planning consent conditions, including the provision of all the plan measurements.
- The archaeological trenches have been dug to investigate the foundations
- We have been through an exhaustive tender process of approaching ten contractors, and have now appointed one of them.
- We have also made our first grant application. We do not know whether or not it will be successful, but it does mean that we have now gathered up all the relevant paperwork, which should help us with any future applications.

The committee would like to thank everyone who is continuing to support the Restoration Project, and in particular, I would like to mention both the Neighbourhood Café and The Royal Oak pub, who have been extremely generous with their ongoing support.

Whilst fund-raising events are 'on hold' at the moment, we have provisionally booked a **Bangers & Mash Night for 18th September**. This will include a charity auction and also entertainment by Martin John.

Fingers crossed that life will have settled down again by then, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Report by PCSO Richard Braddick

Police drop-in surgery, come and meet a member of your local Neighbourhood Police Team and discuss any issues or problems. Anticipated to be held in Hail Weston Village Hall on 24/04/2020 between 7.30pm – 8.30pm, 11/05/2020 between 3 – 4pm, 04/06/2020 between 7 – 8pm, 15/07/2020 between 3.30 – 4.30pm and 07/08/2020 between 7.30pm – 8.30pm

All dates will be subject to change due to operational needs, but I will hopefully let you know in advance if I must cancel or change the date.

PCSO 7101 Richard Braddick, St Neots Rurals Safer Neighbourhood Team, St. Neots Police Station, Dovehouse Close, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1DS Mobile: 07921-094801, Call: 101 Richard.braddick@cambs.pnn.police.uk

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

The County Council is currently made up of 35 Conservative Councillors, 16 Liberal Democrat Councillors, 7 Labour Councillors and 3 Independent Councillors following last month's By Election in Duxford

The Alconbury & Kimbolton Division of the County Council covers 30 Villages and Hamlets from Hail Weston in the South, Covington in the West, Great Gidding in the North and Upton in the East.

This year I have worked with officers on the County Council and the Operator Dews Coaches in getting Bus Route 150 diverted to include stops on Station and Stow Roads in Kimbolton to provide better access to the Doctors Surgery in Kimbolton

The Conservative Budget for this year's County Council Budget agreed a 16million pound pot to invest in projects to support the Councils position on Climate Change.

Of which the Council agreed to invest 15million in the decarbonisation of Council owned buildings approx. 69. Consequently, all Council owned buildings will be changed from Fossil fuels i.e. oil and gas to low carbon heating solutions. Such as air or ground source heat pumps This investment is expected to be recouped in full of savings delivered on the Council's Energy Bills.

The County Council's aim is to also shift all its pool cars and small van fleet from petrol and diesel to electric by 2025. Consequently, the Council will invest in Electric Charging Infrastructure at its main offices to aid the conversion to electric Vehicles.

The new Hub building for the County Council being constructed at Alconbury Weald remains on programme for completion in Spring 2021, with the foundations for the building now complete and the steel framed structure currently being erected. The project is on budget.

With regards to the Disposal of Shire Hall the County Council is close to finalising Heads of Terms with the developer. This follows robust discussions to ensure best value to the County Council, while maintaining key principles around the sensitive development of the site and continued public access.

The construction of the new hub enables CCC to leave its current HQ at Shire Hall. It is anticipated this will provide a net benefit to the council of £40m+ over the next 30 years.

The Combined Authority i.e. the Mayor is currently running a consultation regarding the Cam Metro, which is planned to come out to St Neots, Huntingdon & Alconbury.

Which I would urge all residents to respond to.

East West Rail have issued their Preferred Route for the line between Bedford & Cambridge which will be via an Interchange Station on the East Coast Mainline between St Neots and Sandy and then on via Cambourne to Cambridge.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council and residents for their support over the last 12 months. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Hail Weston Village Hall Committee

Report from District Councillor Darren Tysoe Great Staughton Ward

Nick Farden CLP Lead