

## Chair's report 2018 – 2019

Another busy year for the Parish Council with highs and definitely many challenges on the way which I'm delighted to say we have successfully overcome! Hauxton Meadows is rapidly increasing in size and it is wonderful to see so many of the new residents living there participating in village activities. There are now 150 properties occupied and the 70 Extra Care Homes will shortly be opening their doors to new residents.

The PC have met at least once a month and sometimes twice a month for very long meetings and I do thank all the councillors for attending. Unfortunately our new Parish Councillor Mrs Caroline Ruben who has recently moved into Hauxton Meadows is unable to be here this evening. She has already become a volunteer driver, cooks and helps at the monthly lunch club and has recently been on a welfare officers training course. She is now officially the welfare officer for our new tennis club which you will hear about in more detail from John.

### Recreation Ground and Village Upkeep

The recreation ground is now a thriving meeting place for both children, parents, grandparents and carers, all we need now is a village hall and café! More later! Last year we planted an oak tree where the old play ground used to be to celebrate the opening of the new play area, it suffered a little due to the intense heat of the summer but fortunately now appears to be thriving. The 2 new picnic tables and bench in the toddler's area were installed just after last year's annual meeting and 2 more smaller benches have now arrived and are waiting to be installed. Once we have our café there will then be even more outside seating.

We are very aware that a lot of mixed rubbish is being generated on the recreation ground which unfortunately because it isn't sorted goes straight to landfill, we have therefore recently purchased a dual/general waste bin which takes recyclable bottles, cans and cardboard on one side and general rubbish on the other. It will be emptied weekly by SCDC free of charge and will hopefully more than halve what we send to landfill.

You will notice that a huge number of shrubs kindly donated by Redrow from the front of their show homes have been planted behind the bungalows on the right-hand side of the rec. These will eventually be replanted around the new Village Hall. A huge thank you to those Councillors who helped with the moving and planting especially to Tony Allison who provided the transportation and Johnny Murphy from Willow Way who drove his digger down The Lane and Church Rd to dig the trench. It was extremely hard work and although a few shrubs have suffered from the move hopefully the others will survive. A huge thank you also to the Nobles who allow us to use their water supply to water them.

Several months ago Panash Sha from Hauxton Meadows and I went on a day's Rospa inspection course. We now, between us, inspect the play equipment on a weekly basis and

report back any problems we may encounter. This is a stipulation with our insurance company. Rospa do an in-depth inspection annually and send us a written report.

Another thank you also to Julian who lives opposite the rec who has kindly filled in the huge potholes that have appeared in the parking area. It was becoming a bit of a quagmire!

We have now taken on a new company AJ King to mow the grass on the two recreation grounds, the green and the verges, I'm sure you will agree that David Stern who does the work is doing a marvellous job. He also has a blower to blow back the sand into the sandpit every two weeks. There is a long-handled brush and dustpan and brush in the little shed in the corner next to the basketball area which anyone can use if unhappy about the sand on the steps to the slide.

At the beginning of the year the new speed sign was installed along Church Rd to remind drivers to slow down on entry to the village. The sign is supposed to be moved to other locations on this stretch to avoid drivers becoming too used to it. The other brackets are waiting to be installed. The system also records speeds of all traffic to enable us to analyse the data. Mr Stephan Milde another resident from Hauxton Meadows has kindly offered to change the battery to the speed sign, it usually lasts about 5 weeks depending on traffic flow. We have recently obtained a second battery pack so he now only has to make one visit and replace the old one with the newly charged one.

#### Fundraising for the new Village Hall

Once more at the beginning of December we held our Carols on the Green around the Christmas tree which again was kindly supplied by Redrow together with some extra lights. Despite the rain and wind this year we managed to erect the marquees during the day and thankfully the rain had stopped by the time the evening started. The school children sang beautifully and mulled wine, mince pies and hotdogs were rapidly consumed. We raised £261.00 and a further £68 for Jimmy's who support the homeless. Many thanks to Tom Ginty who supplied the electricity. We unfortunately managed to overload the supply causing a massive cut out of power but with the help of knowledgeable volunteers managed to turn on the supply in time for the children to sing. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the setting up, dismantling, baking and selling. We would be unable to run these events without your support. Hopefully, fingers crossed, we will be able to hold this event at the new VH next year which will make our lives much easier. I would very much like to continue to erect a Christmas tree on the green as we have received so many positive comments from residents as to how welcoming it is.

We raised £195 when one Sunday this year we provided lunch consisting of soup prepared by Caroline and cakes supplied by volunteers.

Our annual quiz raised a massive £616. Thanks to Sue and her team who arranged the questions and to Jill and her team who supervised the food.

I must also thank those residents who have made quite substantial anonymous donations. We really do greatly appreciate your generosity.

### Cambridge Minerals & Waste Local Plan

You will be delighted to know that the revised draft of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan does now not include Rectory Farm. Bridgemere Harrow produced and presented a very strong argument against the proposal to which we are all very grateful.

### A to B Shuttle Bus

This No 32 route went into operation on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The price is £1.00 a trip (children under 5 yrs old are free) and concessions apply at all times. There were a few problems at the beginning because of the time taken to exit Church Rd. The road through Hauxton Meadows is now open so this should help with the timings but unfortunately because the final road surface isn't yet completed the bus is unable to drive over the humps without being damaged. With HM's residents now exiting at the traffic lights this will reduce the number of cars exiting from Church Rd and hopefully reduce the queue. There will be a 'demand response service to cover the off-peak periods, but this has yet to be resolved.

### Neighbourhood Plan

One of our District Councillor's Ian Sollom has commented on the benefit of having a neighbourhood plan, particularly in relation to the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) ie S106 funds that a parish receives for agreed development. Ian has kindly offered to help if Hauxton wishes to progress this. He advised that it should be a resident driven process and not a Parish Council one. I am therefore asking if anyone would like to volunteer to pursue this. We can hopefully form a committee to begin working on this project. We could work together with a neighbouring village such as Little Shelford to share the workload.

Before I finish, I must thank Megan Sammons, John Fuller and a couple of other people whose names I'm afraid I don't know who regularly pick up litter along Church Rd and High Street. It is greatly appreciated. It would be wonderful if we could have more volunteers from Hauxton Meadows who might pop across the road to the sports field and litter pick. We can provide you with pickers.

Finally, a huge, huge thank you to John and Hazel. Hazel has set up so many bank accounts to deal with all the 106 money and various monies that comes to us from all the funding that John spends not just hours but days applying for. The forms are becoming more and more complicated and are basically a nightmare. The majority of the funding is for the sports ground ie the cricket pitch, tennis courts and Pavilion. He does this in his free time without claiming for any hrs. Without the two of them putting in so much voluntary work we would still have a green field without any facilities on the other side of the A10.