



HARDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER 10 APRIL 2018

Battles Over – A Nations Tribute

The planning of the village event to pay tribute to the many millions of people who died or came home wounded during the end of World War I continues well by the committee made up of representatives of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. The outline plan for 11th November 2018 is: Dawn piper plays the 'Battle's O'er'

Normal service of remembrance at St George's Church
Village Gathering on the Green starting at 6.45pm - Readings
Last Post & Reveille

We are seeking documents, artefacts, photos and any stories of Hardingham families, whatever their involvement in the war effort at that time for the Memorial Hall exhibition. Neil Hickman is coordinating the information collection.

Thank you

Heidi Fray continues to do a great job as Clerk to the Council. Our thanks go to her for the contribution she makes to the village.

Thanks also are due to our Parish Councillors who voluntarily give of their time in the service of the village.

John Sharples
Chairman

Dear Resident,

Report of the Parish Council
April 2017 – March 2018

The Council met 7 times during the 12 months April 2017 – 2018. In addition the Council hosted the Annual Village Meeting in May 2017. The meeting continues to be conducted in an informal style with refreshments.

The Council agreed the following appointments:

Chairman – John Sharples
Vice Chairman – Henry Edwards
Responsible Financial Officer – Heidi Fray
Parish Council Trustee to the Memorial Hall for a period of 3 years – Glen Gower
Emergency Liaison Officer – Henry Edwards
Deputy Liaison Officer – Richard Burke
Internal Auditor – Tony Baker
Internal Auditor Scrutineer – Jane Strudwick
Footpath Warden – Jane Strudwick
Homewatch Contact – Heather Johnson

Planning Applications

The Council has considered 6 planning applications during the year. You can view the documents, including the Councils' response on Breckland Council Website (www.breckland.gov.uk/content/planning-application)

Finance

The accounts for the year ended March 2017, presented in draft form to the last Annual Village Meeting, have been audited successfully.

A Receipts and Payments statement for the year ended March 2018 is available on the website and will be at the meeting for inspection. The accounts will be audited and available for inspection under the exercise of electors' rights (information will be available on the website from 1st June)

The precept for 2018/2019 was set at £3,594. This is a slight increase to last year, however represents no increase in payments for Band D properties as the number of properties paying Council Tax has increased. The carry forward at the end of March 2018 will be just over £3,500.

No donations have been made during the year to organisations outside the village.

Parish Administration

The Clerk continues to spend time updating policies and procedures to ensure that we comply with legislation. You will find all our policies on the parish website along with information relating to the last financial year.

Website

www.hardinghampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

We continue to include more details of forthcoming events within the village in addition to details of Village Clubs and Societies. We can, however, only include information which we receive, so please do send anything you think relevant to the Clerk to upload. Also posted are all parish council documents including agendas and minutes of meetings. There is also now a Parish Council Facebook page where information is also shared.

Faster Broadband

Karen O'Kane, Programme Director for Better Broadband for Norfolk has assured the Council that most of the cabling is complete, but will continue into early April which will then be followed by commissioning work. Services are expected to be available at the end of April.

Village Litter Picks

The litter problem in our village continues, and appears to be getting worse. Since a new MacDonalds has been established in Dereham, it would appear that Hardingham is the point at which people complete their meal and jettison the packaging out of their car windows. It is a shame there is not enough education on this matter. Our Litter Wardens, Jane Strudwick and Nigel Ford, do a great job in organising litter picks in February, and there was a good turnout of volunteers this year to whom we send a big Thank you. It would be much appreciated if, when out walking, residents pick up litter when they come upon it in order to keep our village tidy.

Highways

During the year the Clerk continues to liaise with the Highways Officers to have our potholes repaired. The economic squeeze continues to put pressure on the Highways Department at Norfolk County Council and limiting what can be achieved. Nevertheless potholes do get fixed so it is important to continue reporting them to the Clerk when they occur. Following the recent bad winter weather all our roads have suffered, and following a tour of the village by the Parish Clerk and our area Highways Officer, a 'velocity patcher' is to be sent to repair all potholes within the next month. The utility companies will also be chased to repair the Low Street drains which are now a hazard.