

Hildersham Parish Council - Chairman's Annual Report Year – 2024 to 2025

This year the Parish Council has met as usual every two months. The following is a brief summary of the Council's activities during the year.

Linton and Hildersham Neighbourhood Plan

Joint meetings with Linton PC have taken place throughout the year as the content of the Local Plan is finalised. We have also had additional support from a consultant who worked on other PC local plans. We hope to have the plan finalised by the end of this year. There will be a consultation with both Hildersham and Linton residents at the end of this process to ratify the plan.

Village safety

We were unsuccessful, again, in our application for a Local Highways grant to improve the road safety of the back road crossing from Hildersham to Balsham, but we intend to apply again in the 2025 round. The depth gauge on the ford was re installed and new flood signs have been provided. Residents at key points in the village have agreed to store the signs and put them out when required.

Village Maintenance

We continue to get the paths swept, benches maintained and organise for the gullies to be cleared each year and the trees cut when needed. One resident organised a mass pot hole reporting programme which has been acted on by highways. We have appointed a new grass cutting contractor for 2025 the County Council indicated it would not be taking back responsibility for the cutting in the village as we had hoped. Bollards were installed around the green opposite the village hall to prevent parking and subsequent damage. A new bus shelter window pane was also installed during the year after one was broken.

Other activities

Three external speakers have attended PC meetings during the year, we had a presentation on the work of the 100 Parishes Society and a fellow Councillor from Duxford who talked about their Bio Diversity plans and a Lady from Cambridge water talked about their chalk stream project.

The Council also organised a resuscitation and defibrillator training evening in the village hall which was well attended.

Acknowledgements

The Council is very grateful to Councillors John Batchelor and Henry Batchelor, for their continued contributions and support at our Parish meetings.

On a personal note, I wish to record my sincere thanks to my fellow councillors for their unfailing support in what is sometimes a thankless task; their commitment to local democracy in Hildersham has been exemplary.

No Parish Council can function without the support and guidance of its Clerk, and we in Hildersham are fortunate enough to retain the services of Paula Harper, who unfailingly and effectively continues to guide and support us. I am sure that all my fellow councillors, and past councillors, would wish to join with me in recording our gratitude and appreciation to Paula.

I would also like to record the Council's thanks to Jean Kelly who supports us in many ways, organising our website, providing input on the neighbourhood plan and championing the cause of our local environment.

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