

AGM 15th May 2023

Chairmans report

What a year!

The recent parish council elections were uncontested, so we are almost all back. We now have one space on the parish council. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please let us know!

Our District councillors Neil Gregory and Richard Pavitt served us well in their last term of office and we look forward to working with them again.

Inflation and rising prices have meant that we have increased the precept for the first time since 2016/17 from £10,500 to £11,500.

Pollution continues to be a matter of concern. The application for mains drainage remains ongoing but it's slow. I have heard nothing since the letter asking for percolation tests.

The lorry crash on the M11, near the Royston Road bridge caused diesel to flow into Wenden Brook. The environment agency was informed, but nothing has been heard since.

The drainage problem at the corner opposite The Fighting Cocks would appear to have been sorted out – thanks to County councillor Paul Gadd for chasing that for us.

Sadly, climate change and the extremes of weather last summer and the deep cold of the winter have taken their toll on the apple trees on Jubilee meadow, the 5 trees we purchased from EAOP have all died, the 2 older, more established trees we purchased seem to be OK. Any replacements need to be older than maiden whips, and must be regularly watered and have the grass removed from the trunk for 2 years or more.

The Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in June, with thanks to the jubilee committee for all the organisation and to everyone who helped.

The parish council contributed to the events and all children in Yr8 and under received a special jubilee mug, designed by Emma Samson. This was made possible due to a grant from UDC.

The bus shelter was burnt down in late June. The investigation into this is ongoing. The parish council is going to replace it with a brick built one - currently waiting for builder response!

The Village photograph in September sadly coincided with the death of our late Queen and the proclamation of King Charles III.

Speed watch continues to monitor traffic at the allocated spot and those registered as exceeding the speed limit of 30mph get reported.

The flashing speed sign at the western end of the village appears to be slowing some of the traffic, the average speed at that point is now 39mph, still too fast but better than the previous 44mph.

The Parish Council has strongly objected to the application from Audley End estate for a massive grain store behind Bromley Barns, as we are very concerned about the increase in heavy traffic along the Royston Road, in particular up and down Drayton Hill. We have asked for a full assessment of the road/traffic use for all road users and suggested to Highways that this section of road be made priority for one way.

