

Chairman's Report - May 2019

As Chairman of the Parish Council I am pleased to report that the Council and its Members have all actively been involved in projects around the village. We will continue to support the residents and hopefully continue to make this a pleasant place to live.

The Parish Council is made up of volunteers, who give their time and energy to attend monthly meetings, following up issues that effect this area and working with their neighbours to sustain a healthy, pleasant neighbourhood.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Community spirit was clearly shown when with the assistance of volunteers from Fords Motor Company a variety of spring bulbs were planted around the cricket green and alongside Button Common together with work in the Community Garden at St. Andrews Methodist Church. Herongate. They have been a real delight to us all, bringing a breath of spring to the villages. Unfortunately, the Borough Council hastily cut them back before they had finished flowering or setting their bulbs for next year. The Parish Council have sent a strong complaint to the Borough Council and they have apologised. They have promised to provide new bulbs in the autumn. We will ensure that we receive them.

In the last few months the Parish Council have placed defibrillators at both the football and cricket clubs. Training was provided at the football club over two days, which resulted in about 40 residents attending the training sessions. We now wait for the last defibrillator to be placed at The Old Dog Public House. Frustratingly, to install this piece of life saving equipment we have had to go through a full planning process with the Borough's Planning Department.

PLANNING

There have been several planning issues over the last twelve months, the main developments being that at the South Essex Golf Club and Heron Court Care Home. Objections were raised by the Parish Council in both cases and to date both developments have had their applications refused by Brentwood Borough Council and in the case of the golf club this went to the Governments Planning Inspectorate who also dismissed the appeal. In both cases the Parish Council listened to the concerns raised by local residents and supported them in the objection process.

CRIME

During the past year several residents have mentioned about the lack of Police presence in the area. With this in mind it was decided to arrange a meeting with our local Police Officer, PC Rebecca Charge, This meeting was held one afternoon in April at St. Nicholas Church Hall. This was a trial session to see what response we received from residents, and although only a few people did attend, they were given an opportunity to ask questions and receive information about their concerns. Further meetings have been arranged to meet with our local officer on Saturday 17th August at 11am and Saturday 26th October at 12 noon. Both to be held at St. Nicholas Church Hall. The Parish Council have also signed a service agreement with The Chief Constable of Essex Police to fund a Community Special Constable to be deployed in our village even though we do not live in a crime ridden community.

As is our commitment, the Parish Council will continue to work for and in the best interest of the residents.

ALL CHANGE AT THE PARISH COUNCIL – A FRESH START

Every four years local residents have the opportunity to apply to be a Parish Councillor. In April 2019 Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council had nine Councillors, and each post was opened for a resident to make an application to be elected.

Although current Councillors could apply for re-election, only five did.

Those who have stood down are Sheila Murphy, Stewart Theobald, Kelly Pegram and Paul Hawkins. Following the election process we have had two local residents, Sue Flood and Jacqueline Capps-Coe, join the Council. We Councillors welcome them to our team, and look forward to our working together for the benefit of the two villages.

However, that now leaves a vacancy for two more residents to join the Council. If you are interested please see contact the Parish Clerk.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the following persons:

All the Councillors for their dedication and hard work during the past twelve months.

Special thanks goes to Stephanie Robinson the Parish Clerk & Financial Responsible Officer (RFO) for her work in supporting the Chair and Councillors throughout this year and congratulations to her for her CiLCA qualification.

In addition, Sheila Murphy and Stewart Theobald who have been Parish Councillors since its inception 19 years ago. They have provided consistently good service throughout and sustained the Council through hard and better years. Their experience on the Council will be missed, but we wish them both all the very best with their next ventures.

Kelly Pegram and Paul Hawkins have been Councillors for a few less years, but nevertheless, helped to keep the momentum of the Council, its decision making process and management of its finances up to the mark. We wish them well with their next endeavours.

ELECTIONS

Following recent Parish Council elections we are delighted to announce that Sue Flood and Jacqueline Capp-Coe have been elected to the Council. We look forward to them participating in all future matters and meetings. On May 2nd Brentwood Borough local elections declared Marie Pearson to be our newest Ward Councillor covering Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon. Cllr Pearson is also a Parish Councillor and we hope her combined roles will benefit our community.



Alan Kingsford

Cllr and Chairman

Herongate & Ingrave Parish Council