

Chairman's Report 2025/26

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting. There were 10 people put themselves forward to act as councillors and with 15 spaces available that meant that all were elected and this has entitled us to the general power of competence. This is important as it gives us, under the Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities, including eligible local councils, "the power to do anything that individuals generally may do" as long as they don't break other laws.

If you feel you are missing out we still have 5 vacant seats. Steve Criswell has retired as District Councillor – many thanks Steve for your years of service and has been replaced by Sarah Hodgson-Jones (Con) I am going to mention some things that have gone during the past year in no particular order.

The carnival made a welcome return and although it was a very windy day was well attended and a success. Solar panels have been installed on the roof at the Millennium Pavilion with aid of a 50% grant from The Red Tile Wind Farm. This will give us some return in the years to come.

At the Carnival the council took the opportunity to consult on the Neighbourhood Plan. We have taken on board the comments and the final draft plan is ready. We plan to repeat the exercise this year with the view that the plan will be complete by the end of the year.

The Remembrance Day wreath laying will be back to normal this year as we now have some qualified road closure people. The MEN shed is now in place and preparations are well under way to an official opening.

The Bowls Club had a very successful year being amongst the trophies at the county finals and having a representation at the national finals. Punching well above their weight. Potholes – a very hot subject but myself and councillor Chapman had a drive around the village in January and logged each pothole with Cambs Council. Two months later we did the same again.

Over 30 were logged and I am glad to say that they have all been repaired. It shows that you have to play the system and keep on keeping on. Now hopefully you will all know that there are going to be big changes in local government. What will happen to Huntingdonshire we will only find out in the summer. The one thing for sure is that a lot more responsibility will be pushed down to the Parish Council.

Things like streetlights will solely be the parish council's responsibility. With no extra funding. With all this in mind we need to give our parish administration the best possible resources to manage this situation. Things like robust WiFi, good temperature-controlled working conditions and up to date IT equipment.

Daryl Potter, Chair