

Chairman's Report 2023

REPORT

My thanks go out to my fellow councillors for supporting me over the year and for their experience they bring to the council. This year we all stand down and after 8 years being a parish councillor, Sarah Peck has decided not to stand again and we thank Sarah for her work over the years. I must also thank our clerk for supporting the council throughout the year and me in my role as chairman.

Our District Councillor Mary McLaren and County Councillor Simon Harley attends our monthly meetings, and you will hear from them next.

Special thanks must go to Pat Goodchild who has been our community caretaker for 7 years, Bill Abbott has taken over from him.

Also thanks must also go to Holbrook Helpers, Holbrook Society, HET, the P3 group and the Community Self Help Group who have now started work around the village. Please speak to the CSHG later and find out how to be involved.

Greener Holbrook, Greener World is something you will also hear about later, it is an exiting initiative to tackle climate change and it is supported by the parish council.

Recently, the Holbrook Neighbourhood Plan passed the examiner's stage which means that it must be considered when the planning authority considers planning applications. This resulted in the hybrid application at the rear of the fire station was refused by the planning committee as it failed 2 policies in the HNP. Congratulations to the NP Team, without passing the examiner's stage it may had seen the planning application approved.

Finally, looking forward there is a lot more work for us to do. Plans are progressing to replace the pavilion on the Reade Field which is no longer fit for purpose. Also, we are investigating how the sport centre at the Academy can be made available for community use. One proposal is to form a Community Interest Company to take on the running of it and if you are interested in becoming involved, please pass your details onto either the clerk or myself.

We now have 9 out of 11 councillor positions filled and we are looking to co-opt 2 so that we have a full council for the next 4 years. If you are interested in putting your name forward, please speak to the clerk or myself.

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