

Chairman's Report 2024

Welcome

I must remind everyone that this is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but the Annual Parish Meeting and no decisions will be made. We do welcome parishioners to come along to the regular monthly meetings of the council to raise their concerns, these are usually held on the third Monday of each month.

Payment of the peppercorn rent:

The first presentation of the reed for the Reade Field was made in July 1968 in the presence of the Queen Mother at the opening of the Fire Station. The lease started on 15th July 1968 and runs for 99 years.

REPORT

My thanks once again go out to my fellow councillors for supporting me over the year and for their experience they bring to the council. I must also thank our clerk for supporting the council throughout the year and me in my role as chairman.

Issues are often raised by residents at council meetings and we do encourage you to come along to our regular monthly meetings to do this. Issues have included pot holes, car parking, the sports centre and the surgery, where possible we do try to resolve them or contact the appropriate authority. Sometimes there is little or nothing that we as the parish council can do which can be frustrating to you and equally to us but I can assure you that we do investigate all options available to us.

Sometimes, we have issues that are common with other parishes on the peninsula. The Shotley Peninsula Parish Council Alliance now exists to discuss and voice our concerns, such as the increase traffic at the Freston crossroads and the need to improve it.

Thanks to both our District Councillor Mary McLaren and County Councillor Simon Harley who attend our monthly meetings, and you will hear from them next.

Also thanks must also go to our Community Caretaker, Holbrook Helpers, Holbrook Society, HET, the P3 group, Greener Holbrook Greener World, the Community Self Help Group, The Community Speedwatch Team and the many others who quietly work to make Holbrook a nice place to live in.

Holbrook has a buzz about it, monthly film nights, the village meal, HS events and a successful village fete and next month “beating the bounds” on Sunday 5th May.

Finally, looking forward there is still work for us to do. Plans are progressing to replace the pavilion on the Reade Field which is no longer fit for purpose and how the sport centre at the Academy can be made available for community use.

END