

Chairmans Report for Corton Parish Council

May 2019 to May 2021

You will see from the dates above that this report is for two years instead of the normal one. The Corton Parish Council AGM for May 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, and the world is still in the grips of this dreadful disease. During the last year, we have become online meeting experts, but have missed the face to face meetings.

So I would like to present my report for some of the events to have happened within the village over the last two years.

The new extension to the playing field pavilion was well under way. In May 2019 it was being reported that we were hoping to start the brickwork. Since then, the building has been completed and has been used. Well done to the playing field committee on getting this project finished. Some parishioners have worked very hard to get the hall into the condition it is in today.

The project owes some thanks to the Village hall charity who assisted with funds for this project.

Many thanks to Corton in Bloom for the work they carry out within the village. When in full bloom, the planters look spectacular and show the village at its best to our visitors.

The playing field committee have again worked tirelessly on the upkeep of the playing field. This is a large area to run and takes quite a bit of funding to operate. It is not an easy task to continually raise the operating costs, but through hard work, the committee are up to the task.

Well done to Jessica Harvey on running the car boot sales which must go a long way to contribute to the funds.

Late in August 2019, the village was plagued with a bad odour from the sewerage works. Anglian Water attended the Parish Council and gave a report on the problems they had been experiencing. Apparently, two pumps had failed at the same time allowing the bad smelling odours to escape to the environment. We have been informed that these have been replaced and improved, so that this situation should not happen again.

A group of the younger generation came to the Parish Council meeting in December 2019 and requested some more equipment on the PIT area. Following this, we were able to purchase and install a basketball net on the field, and replaced the swing seats, and repaired the picnic table top. Ongoing maintenance of the pit area means it is still used and is often quite a popular location for a kick about or even just a meeting place.

The Parish Council had to deal with a person who parked illegally on the playing field carpark and set up home in a camper van. This cost the PC quite a considerable in finance and time to resolve, but did result in the playing field have a height barrier fitted to stop this situation from happening in the future.

We come to March 2020, and the world changed. The country experienced its first lockdown since the second world war, and it was not possible for the PC to meet face to face. It took a few months for the PC to decide how we were going to meet. At the time, we were always thinking, we would be back to normal in just a few days. When it became apparent that lockdown and socially distancing was going to be around for quite a while, the PC started to meet online in June 2020

In June 2020, we first discussed the proposed new village. Concerns were raised at the entrance from Corton Long Lane, and this is still the position today. The PC have received a couple of presentations from the planners of the New Garden Village, and the first plans on how the council hoped the site would look. The council still has concerns about this and at present, the discussion on the site is still ongoing.

Well done to the Corton White Horse. The last year has been very difficult for licensed premises, but the land lord has worked very hard to keep going. During lockdown, They supplied food parcels, opened a village shop, and a fish and chip shop. The council would like to wish them all the best as we come out of lockdown.

During the last two years we have sadly lost some members of the community

Heather Habbin was a long serving member of the Parish Council. Heather was a great village character, and would readily support lots of different events throughout the village.

Don Ayers had served as a Parish Councillor. For many years, Don was the person you went to when you needed that large DIY project completing. Don would attend the remembrance day celebration every year where he had a brother named on the village memorial.

Michael Soaanes was known as the village historian, and the font of all knowledge on footpaths throughout the area.

I would like to thank Parish councillors who have moved to other areas. Terry Peckham was only in the village for a short time but was a very active member. Terry looked after the speed camera in Corton Long Lane and Blundeston Road. He also helped around the village on many projects including the completion of the playing field pavilion. Terry has moved to Beccles, and we wish him all the best for the future.

Anne Webb took over as the Council Clerk during late 2018 and although was only in the village for a short time made a large contribution to the village. During lockdown, Anne set up the Parishioner's help line. During lockdown, Parishioner's could phone and ask for their shopping to be done for them, medicines to be collected etc. Anne also managed to get funding from local government so the council was able to purchase shopping for those in the village in extreme hardship. Anne had such a caring nature and made many friends within the village, and it was a sad day for us when Anne moved to Wroxham. On behalf of the council, I would like to thank Anne for all her hard work during the last few years..

And so to the future.

We have managed to bring in a new Councillors. Joy Clutten and David Fermor joined us in March, and Steve Barber joined the council in May 2021. We all look forward to working with Joy, David and Steve over the next few years.

We have the ongoing plans for the new Garden Village

And of course, we are looking forward to returning to some sort of normal life after Covid.

Thank you to all my fellow Councillors and all you do for the village. Its not been easy with the online meetings but we got through it.

Finally, thank you for allowing me the honour to be Chairman of the council and for putting your faith in me to continue for another year.

Stephen Pavey
Chairman
Corton Parish Council