**HATTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**2022/2023**

 **Annual Reports**

* Chair of Parish Council;
* Hatton Park Residents’ Association
* Ferncumbe School
* Ferncumbe Youth Club
* 1st Hatton Brownies
* Hatton Combined Charites
* PCC
* Meet your neighbour coffee mornings
* Warwick District Council
* Warwickshire County Council

**Hatton Parish Council**

**Chairman's Report 15th  May 2023**

The Open Forum with which we start each Parish Meeting, has again been dominated by residents’ concerns regarding Union View, as the development on site H28 has been designated; construction is now under way.

Arising from this we are in receipt of considerable funds through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Both matters are discussed further in the report.

**Finance**

In view of the increased rate of inflation, we reviewed our disbursements to local organisations, but decided that minimising the precept should be our priority, so for this year, they are unchanged. We had no major unplanned expenditure although the Hatton Park goal posts came up for their bi-annual replacement. Our income and outgoings were thus similar, and the main account stands at £22,365 consisting of £5490 CIL funds, the required reserve to cover a contested election, and a contingency reserve.

We have increased the precept slightly to cover the new website. This year it is £14,384, or £11.24 per D band dwelling.

The War Memorial account remains at £3081.

After a few false starts we have secured the services of a new internal auditor

The Income and Expenditure Account will be presented at this meeting, and is available for inspection on application to our clerk.

We are always happy to receive requests for funds to support Parish based community activities and enterprise, and although our own resources are limited, this can often facilitate access to other sources of funding.

**Planning**

Applications: In 2022-23 we considered 9 applications for domestic alterations and listed building consent, and filed a neutral response to all with comments on 2.

On reconsideration, we withdrew our objection to the extension of the change of use application by Hatton Country World for camping and caravans.

Care Home, Birmingham Road: An application submitted in 2020 was refused; in July 2022 and an appeal was lodged and subsequently withdrawn.

A further, almost identical application (W/22/1410) was submitted in August 2022; the council again objected on the grounds of excessive and inappropriate development on the Green Belt and Canal Conservation Area. This is yet to be determined.

Land off Charingworth Drive: an application for 7 dwellings on this land adjacent to Smith’s Covert was submitted and withdrawn in 2020, and resubmitted in December 2021 (W/21/2283. This was refused, and an appeal has been lodged.

H28 - Union View: construction of the temporary (works) access was completed during the summer and much of the groundwork by the end of the year. Inevitably this caused considerable disruption to residents and users of the Birmingham Road through mud on the road, HGV movements on and off the site and periodic one way traffic. A short period of 24hr light-controlled one-way traffic caused serious delays during peak times, and since then all controls have been 9.30-3.30. The construction of the permanent access will take place this summer, and we hope that lessons have been learnt.

The Parish Council and a party of local residents have been in regular contact with the developers, Taylor Wimpey, to present our concerns and minimise the impact of the construction on local residents and users of the Birmingham Road.

Community Infrastructure Levy: This is a payment by developers to support the infrastructure development needs arising from their development. 15% of this comes to the Parish Council.

The development of 2 dwellings on Hatton Green has yielded a CIL of £5,500, and we are placing a bench to mark the Coronation of King Charles by the path on Hatton Green, and hope to plant some trees.

The much larger development of Union View will result in CIL payments amounting to £320,000, £95,000 of which has been received. Much of this is committed to the Hatton Park playground, and other proposals will be considered by the working party set up for this. At present it consists of 3 councillors, repeated appeals for residents to help with the work involved in evaluating and researching possibilities having so far attracted no volunteers.

**Community Engagement**

 Attendance of the public at our meetings remains, as with most councils, sparse and as mentioned, mainly concerned with the Union View development. Councillor attendance was lower than usual at 66%

Eight editions of our newsletter, ‘The Hatton Parish Post’ were published in the last year and once again, my thanks to our editor, Sue Hague who continues to do an excellent job in making the presentation attractive and readable. We continue to receive positive comment and feedback.

Brendon Asprey continues to manage our presence on Facebook through which we can pass on information, although without the facility for dialogue.,

Parish Council Website: This is now fully operational and provides news, agendas and minutes of meetings, planning updates and other information.

**Other Matters**

Hatton Park Playground: Thanks to the persistence of our working party, and the intervention of our district councillors, we are at last making progress, and work is due to start in September. A combined budget of £90.000+ has been committed to this project, and we look forward to its completion.

My thanks to Sue Hague, Veronica Chapman and Michael Busby for their diligence in managing this work, which has turned out to be a protracted and exacting process.

Rewilding: We can also report progress with persuading the County Council not to cut the Bank on Hatton Green. Again, an extraordinarily lengthy and complex process despite the commitment of both WCC and WDC to biodiversity and addressing climate change.

The council and HPRA commissioned two cherry trees by the path alongside the green on Hatton Park as part of the Queen’s Canopy.

New goalposts are in place, and the hoops and nets on the multi-use games area have been replaced. We were pleased to hear of an active netball group meeting regularly there.

**Acknowledgements**

Our congratulations to Jan Matecki and Peter Philips on their (re)election to Warwick District Council representing Budbrooke Ward which includes Hatton. Jan is already well known to us and Peter is returning after a 4 year break, replacing Alan Rhead who is standing down after representing us since 2007. We wish Alan well in his retirement and thank him for his support and endeavours on our behalf over 16 years.

Our thanks also to Jan, who is also our County Councillor.

This round also saw the parish council elections. We had 7 nominees for the 8 places on the council, so no election was necessary. All nominees are sitting councillors, and my thanks to them for their hard work in the past, and commitment to the local community in undertaking a further term. We are sorry to report that Michael Busby has decided to stand down owing to other activities and a likely move from the area. We thus have a vacancy and will be seeking a co-optee in due course. If lucky, we will replace Michael with someone who can match his diligence, hard work, and attention to detail.

Finally, my thanks to our clerk, Katherine Skudra for steering us through another year.

**Hatton Park Residents’ Association**

**Report for Hatton Parish Council**

**Annual Assembly**

2022 to an extent continued to be a Covid recovery year although more progressive than 2021.

The entire hall was redecorated during the first two weeks of January 2022. New blinds had been bought in 2021 and new curtains were hung following the completion of the main hall being decorated. Although this was mentioned in our 2021 report, we felt it was worth highlighting again as a positive use of covid grant money along with the very positive comments from our hirers.

Extra gravel was added to the car park to maintain good order.

Together with Hatton Parish Council, we continue to liaise with the Green Space team regarding the new play area. Regular meetings have taken place, unfortunately, due to circumstances over which we have no control, the project is taking far longer than we hoped or expected. However, we do feel that once completed it will be a huge asset for the children of Hatton Park.

We continue to maintain and monitor the defibrillator sited on the wall outside the hall, it is registered with The Circuit – National Defibrillator Network. This means that location and status is instantly synchronised with the emergency services’ systems. We also receive a reminder every ninety days to check the battery and that pads are in date.

The Community Orchard continues to thrive with the fruit trees producing better fruit year on year. We are lucky to have volunteers who maintain the trees with annual pruning. Our thanks to them for giving their time to look after this lovely space which is there for all to enjoy.

Having received a much-needed facelift in 2021, we continue to add seasonal plants to the large planter in Crimscote Square. Red, white and blue was of course the colour scheme in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Two cherry trees, Prunus Tai Haku purchased by HPRA and Prunus Kanzans purchased by HPC were planted at the side of the Green in late November as a more permanent reminder of this special occasion.

The normal day to day running of the hall continues to be the main role for our small committee.

We are assisted by a dedicated group of residents who help us by opening and closing the hall each day. We are very grateful for their help because without it, committee members would have to pick up the slack.

Finally, we thank Hatton Parish Council for the financial assistance which we receive in the form of the annual precept.

**Ferncumbe School**

Annual Parish Forum – April 2023 Mr Chairman & committee members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued financial support. In this challenging financial climate, your contribution has supported the enriching and engaging curriculum we aim to offer our pupils. We have had lots to celebrate this academic year.

Our children loved their engagement with the community based Book of Portraits and we hope members of the parish enjoyed it too.

The coronation of King Charles III saw each pupil issued with a commemorative pin badge as a memento of the event. In school, the children made scones, enjoyed an afternoon tea and we finished the day with a rousing rendition of God save the King!

Please see our Ferncumbe School Twitter page (@Ferncumbe) for further information.

Our school gardener, Tamson, has been nominated as an RHS national finalist for School Garden Champion 2023 and we await the outcome of the judging process. You may wish to view our video submission https://we.tl/t-uFTdLRjAd6 .

The children treasure the garden which provides a place of peace and tranquillity during busy school days. This year we have welcomed the return of social events traditionally featuring on our school calendar.

On Friday 23rd June 5-7pm, our school will be transformed into ‘Ferncumbe by the sea’ as we hold our school fete. You are most welcome to join us as we host stalls and enjoy entertainment with the aim of raising money to refurbish our playground equipment.

As I write this, our Year 6 students are taking their statutory assessment tests. As always, we have been impressed by their hard work and resilience and we now begin the important process of supporting their transition to secondary school.

May I thank you again for your generosity and I hope to welcome you to a school event in the near future.

Kind regards Heather Reid The Ferncumbe C of E Primary School

 **Ferncumbe Youth Club**

**FERNCUMBE YOUTH CLUB – David Dyke**

2022 has been a good year for the youth club, with our members enjoying the physical activity, interaction, fun, games and tuck shop treats. The Tuck “Taste test” has proven to be very popular this year.

We meet every Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm including school holidays.

Open to all Children in school years 5 and above.

Football, pool, table tennis or just chill out with friends.

First week is free and then £1.00 per week.

We remain indebted to the volunteers who make the club happen, really appreciate the support and funding of all the local parish councils and charities as this makes a vital difference to the running of the Youth club

**Ist Hatton Brownies**

On behalf of the leadership team at 1st Hatton Brownies, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support during 2022 and 2023.

We are pleased to report that Hatton Brownie pack has increased in numbers and we are nearly up to full capacity, with younger girls listed on our waiting list. This is very welcome after the disruption of the pandemic and bodes well for the future of our unit.  However, one of our leadership team is facing mobility issues and we may need to look at increasing the number of owls in the coming year.  If any members of the community know of someone who would be interested in volunteering as a helper or leader, please would you let them know that we would be keen to speak to them.

We are regularly meeting  at Ferncumbe School and would like to thank the head teacher and staff for their support and encouragement.  We are lucky to have such a well equipped and safe meeting place with access to the field during the summer months.

We are pleased to inform the parish committee that we were able to take the girls on a pack holiday to PGL Liddington in October last year.  The brownies were thrilled to spend a weekend doing outdoor activities such as zip wire, abseiling, aeroball, campfire, survival skills and problem solving.  The girls had a great time and had an opportunity to develop their teamwork.  Many girls had not spent time away from home before and had an opportunity to do activities that they wouldn’t normally access.  This weekend was an important developmental opportunity for those girls and we would like to thank the committee for their financial support in making this happen.  Your donation allowed us to pay to take 3 qualified leaders along without adding financial burden to the unit.  We are very grateful for this support.

Moving forward, we are currently planning summer activities with the girls, including a walk with Alpacas and craft sessions on the school field.  We are also planning another pack holiday with PGL in May next year.  The kind donation from the parish council is a great help in allowing us to arrange these activities for the girls.

Once again, we would like to express our gratitude for the support that we received from Hatton Parish Council and the local community this year.

Best regards

Lorraine Grocott Assistant Leader, 1st Hatton Brownies

Hatton Combined Charities

**Report for Hatton** **Parish Annual Assembly and Annual Meeting 2023 from Hatton Combined Charities**

Hatton Combined Charities is a consolidation of 5 different charities.

Each year a proportion of the charities net income is allocated for the upkeep of the fabric of Hatton Parish Church. The remaining income from the combined charities is available for the benefit of needy people living in Hatton, Shrewley and Beausale, including students and people in training, to put towards the purchase of work clothing, books or tools. Bibles were also purchased for every pupil leaving year 6 at Ferncumbe School.

Consideration can also be given to those needing immediate short-term assistance due to illness or hardship.

There are 5 trustees including the vicar and our non-Trustee clerk who is paid a nominal sum each year for his valuable work.

Last year we made 15 individual goods and monetary grants to the elderly and needy within the area.

We are always happy to hear from anyone who may need help or knows of anyone who may need help. We have an advertisement in the Ferncumbe News with further information and contact details.

Carol Blower, Trustee – 07990 513969

Meet Your Neighbours Annual Report

15th May 2023

Other than the Christmas Coffee Morning in December, there has not been much activity on the Meet Your Neighbours front. During Covid many people went out with friends or neighbours in very small groups and I stopped the coffee morning. I also had a Guide Dog puppy to train for 16 months, so my time was taken up.

I held the last Coffee Morning this year on 18th April. I had over £63 that I had taken in the previous year and wished to give it back to the community, as the principle of Meet Your Neighbours is that it is self-funding and that any profit is used only to provide refreshments and raffle prizes. Hence there was no charge for refreshments or raffle tickets at the last meeting and I handed out £64 mainly in raffle prizes – refreshments were only a small amount, of course.

I do, however, plan to hold a Christmas coffee morning on 12th December, but with no money in the kitty, I shall have to charge people in advance of that date so that I can purchase the raffle prizes, as they normally consist of Christmas goodies, such as Christmas cake, puddings and chocolates. I shall need to raise this in October so that, in event of little or no take-up, the Village Hall can make money by hiring out the room during the run-up to Christmas. If there is little or no take up there will be no more Meet Your Neighbours coffee morning as it might well have served its time.

Warwick District Councillors’ Annual Report - May 2023

Warwick District Council, (WDC), froze the District Council element of Council Tax for the second year running. The opposition, as they did last year, wanted to increase it by the maximum amount allowable, despite the Council generating around £1.5m per year through a joint venture by the local housing company that the Councils owns. £52,000 was allocated to food banks, which is £1,000 per week, as well as other measures to help the most vulnerable in our society.

A new Development Policy Document, (DPD), has been submitted to Government for approval. The DPD will force any new developments in the district to be built to a much higher environmentally friendly building standard, which will reduce carbon emissions and also provide more energy efficient homes. The Inspector has had a public review of the DPD, and we hope it will become part of the Local Plan by the autumn of 2023.

WDC will be moving out of Riverside House in Leamington. The backroom function will be moving to offices in Saltisford, Warwick, with a front office facility being introduced in the Pump Rooms in Leamington Spa. It is planned to have ‘floor walkers’ in the Pump Rooms to meet residents and help them with their enquiries. There will be private meeting rooms available and a member of the housing team will also always be on site to deal with any urgent housing needs. The move is planned to take place around June 2023. A purchaser of Riverside House has been found, who will develop the site to include 40% affordable homes and retaining the protected trees.

The District hosted the Commonwealth Games bowls and men’s and women’s road cycle races. These were a great success bringing a lot our tourism and business into the district, as well as showcasing Warwick and Leamington to the rest of the world. Bowls England are hoping to host more international events at the newly laid international standard greens in Victoria Park, and there has been an upsurge in interest from filming companies wanting to film around the area. This will bring more revenue into the local economy and into the Council.

An Additional Licensing proposal has gone out to consultation to look at making all houses of multi-occupation, (HMOs), licensable. Currently, only homes that have 5 or more occupants from 2 or more households need to be inspected and have a license. The proposal is that all HMOs, defined as 3 or more people from 2 or more households sharing a property, in the district should be licensed. The extra revenue from the licensing fee will self-fund the extra staff required for inspections and enforcement. The scheme will also penalise those landlords that do not fulfil their duties in managing HMOs in an appropriate manner. It is hoped the scheme will be approved by October 2023.

Two brand new leisure facilities in Kenilworth have started to be constructed. The sports centre at castle Farm and the swimming pool complex at Abbey Fields have been demolished and work started on the new buildings. The new swimming pools at Abbey Fields will have a pool with a moveable floor so that younger children and those with disabilities will be able to use the pool with depths to suit their needs. It will be a first in the district for a pool with such facilities.

A grant of £250,000 has been secured from WDC for a new proposed Youth and Community centre in Barford.

Finally, the elections on 4th May has resulted in a Council with no overall control. The Greens are the largest party with 14 seats, followed by Labour with 11 and Liberal Democrats with 10. It is anticipated that the new administration will be a Green/Labour Coalition.

Cllrs Jan Matecki & Alan Rhead

Warwickshire County Councillor’s Annual Report - May 2023

The year has been dominated by the cost of living crisis. As well as providing advice to families, Warwickshire County Council has supported residents with financial support through varies grants and schemes. £3.47m of grants was made available through the Household Support Fund, and a further £180,000 was made available to voluntary and community groups to establish projects that helped address the cost of living crisis.

The new all through school in Bishop’s Tachbrook, Oakley School, was granted planning permission and work started on the school in December 2022. It is on target to open in September 2024, with the first year 7 intake scheduled to start in September 2023 spending their first year in Myton School’s new 6th form centre, which is also currently being built and on target to be ready for the pupils to start in September 2023. There was no catchment area set for pupils wanting to start at Oakley school in September 2023. September 2024 will see the arrival of the September 2024 year 7 intake, as well as the year 8 pupils move from Myton 6th form centre. There will also be an intake of reception year children in 2024.

On the theme of education, a Task and Finish group has been set up to look into the inequalities of education throughout the county. The group are investigating why certain schools have children that underperform, while others in predominantly deprived areas perform well. I am part of the group and a report is expected to be issued later in the year.

The annual public health report has been issued. It highlights how the cost of living is starting to affect the health and wellbeing of residents, and that there is a risk of exacerbating further the health inequalities that already exist within the county. The newly formed Integrated Care System has been given recommendations on how to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis, and involves focus on food, housing and transport. The full report is available online.

The Warwickshire Minerals Plan was adopted, which included the Wasperton site for the extraction of sand and gravel. A planning application has been submitted for the site, but it is not expected to be presented to committee for consideration before autumn 2023. I continue to object to a quarry being at this site, and I am working with the local sand and gravel committee in their fight to have the application refused.

The WCC Council Tax increase for 2023-24 was set at 3.94%, which includes 1% for the Adult Social Care levy. The budget included investments of:

* £24.8m to protect elderly and vulnerable adults
* £8.2m for home to school transport
* £5.4m for children’s social care services
* £1.8m to support children and young adults with disability placements
* £1.2m in the Waste Management service to meet increased demand
* £0.8m in Fire & Rescue Service to review current strategies and processes.

More locally, a new on ‘on demand’ bus service, IndieGo Plus, was introduced to replace the old No.16 bus service. Residents in an area from M40 to the south, A452 to the north, A46 to the east and A4177/Five Ways Road to the west can use an App or telephone to book a bus journey at times they need. Journeys can be booked within the area, or to Kenilworth and Warwick. Residents in Warwick can also book journeys into that area. It has been dubbed by many residents as the ‘Uber’ bus service, and has received a very positive response. It is hoped that the service will be expanded to other rural communities if it continues to be successful.

Cllr Jan Mateck