

**HARPLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

*Harpley Parish Council website: <https://www.harpleypc.info/>*

*Email: [harpleypc@gmail.com](mailto:harpleypc@gmail.com)*

Parish Clerk: Ms. Caroline Boyden, 2 Abbeyfields, Abbey Road, Great Massingham. PE32 2JE  
Chairman: Mr. Brian Chandler.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held, after due notice, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall.

**029/21 Present:** Cllrs B Chandler (Chairman), N Steed, T. Cable, A. Case, J. Pocklington, P Peak, Cllr Moriarity, Clerk (C Boyden) and 3 members of the public.

**030/21 Apologies:** Cllrs S. Rose, D. Burr.  
County Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh

**031/21 To receive declarations of interest from members in any item discussed.**  
None

**032/21 Minutes** of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.  
Proposed: Cllr Cable . All present agreed.

**033/21 To receive the Chairman’s Annual Report**

The parish council have met on very few occasions during the past 12 months due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic. Meetings have all been conducted remotely and this has unfortunately meant the exclusion of some members for various reasons. We decided in the early stages of the first lockdown, that due to reduced activity within the village that we would hold our meetings bi-monthly. I think that we can maintain this for the present unless it becomes impractical.

The minutes of the meetings can be found on our website **harpleypc.info** and on the village noticeboard once it has been replaced. Unfortunately, since my last report we have seen the demise of the quarterly parish magazine and now when we need to circulate any information it can be found on the website, by round robin email and also in conjunction with the church magazine.

We have had some changes within the committee itself, with the retirement of Archie Reed and Tim Richards, both of whom were valued members, and we thank them for their loyal service. This year also saw the retirement of Linda Steed, our Parish Clerk of 5 years.

Many thanks to her for her work on our behalf and our sincere wishes for a happy retirement. Linda’s replacement Caroline Boyden, who is an experienced parish clerk with several other parishes in her portfolio has taken on the role with enthusiasm and has already brought our banking system up to date. I hope that her tenure of the position will be a long and fruitful one.

Reports from the various village organisations are being tabled separately although, due to national restrictions there hasn't been a great deal of action anywhere.

Councillors will continue to serve the community, work in the best interest of the village and deal with the problems that will undoubtedly arise, and I look forward to village life returning to some sort of normality.

Brian Chandler. Chairman.

**034/21 Reports from community representatives and organisations**

HARPLEY VILLAGE FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

With a very varied year of weather, several previously mentioned concerns regards loose/muddy footpaths around the village seem to have been quashed with the dry weather we seem to be experiencing, though as I write this, we are experiencing a lot of rain!!! As far as I am aware, any other issues raised regarding the footpaths have been addressed. I will keep an eye out, and if anyone does have any concerns, please report to me, Caroline (Parish Clerk) or Norfolk County Council. But also, please do remember, these are footpaths not pavements, and care and forethought must be exercised at all times.

The use of the vast network of paths and bridleways has very much increased over the last year, mainly due to the pandemic, with plenty of foot and paw traffic on all. The maintenance of this network does rely on a small band of volunteers who mow and maintain the paths on a regular basis, in their own time at their own expense. These duties include mowing, edging, cutting back straggling branches, keeping stiles clear and safe to use, and monitoring signs. For this, we are all greatly appreciative, but we can all help by simply taking our rubbish home and clearing up after our pets.

There are several dog waste bins around the village, which the Parish Council pay a considerable amount of money to be maintained and emptied. Could all dog owners/walkers please continue to ensure that we

clear up after our own dogs, so that everybody can enjoy the beautiful walks and views we are blessed with in Harpley. If there are any particular issues with fouling, please let me know. But if you witness somebody not clearing up after their dog, this can be reported to our local council, BCKLWN. With regards the maintenance of our network of paths, Norfolk County Council have advised us that they or their contractors will cut the network of footpaths twice a year. Once in May, and again in July. Due to weather and the pandemic and the vast amount they have to cut over the county, they cannot guarantee a date/time. Please continue to use and enjoy our wonderful network of walks, clearing up after your dogs and taking your litter home with you. If either of these are not possible, then either contact me, Tony Cable (07785 706296) or Norfolk County Council (0344 800 8020).

TONY CABLE  
FOOTPATH WARDEN

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Harpley Village Hall Chairman’s Annual Report 2021

After a strange year there does not seem to be a great deal to report, however there have been several notable events. Given that we have had very little income, our finances are still in good order due in part to a £10k grant from the Government at the start of the pandemic. Many thanks to John Walker for his efforts in securing this funding. Although the hall has been closed to the public for most of the last 12 months, maintenance of the facility has continued uninterrupted. Thanks to the efforts of the team and the contribution from the Government, we are able to reopen in a fully Covid secure manner. A one way system has been established, hand sanitisers have been fitted at various points in the hall and a rigorous cleaning regime is in place involving a deep clean of equipment used and touchpoints around the building. After many years and various attempts at repairing a persistent leak in the roof, at last we have found the cause of the problem and I am pleased to report that the solution, although a challenge, is not going to involve any roof repairs at this time. We have some changes to the team looking after the hall and after a number of years as our secretary, John Walker has decided to step down. We would like to thank him for his valuable contribution and wish him and Helen all the best in their next stage of retirement. We also have two new members of the team, Clare Peak, who was with us a few years ago and has made a welcome return and also Linda Steed, fresh from her role as Parish Clerk has decided to join our merry band. As things hopefully to some sort of normality, we look forward to welcoming the village back into the Hall. It has been a sad place without people in it. Watch this space for future events.

**035/21 Questions and comments from members of the public - none**

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 19.21 hrs.

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Signed .....

Date .....