

## MATTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

This past year has been like many others with the usual round of business; Parish Council meetings have been well attended by councillors but regrettably few members of the public attend regularly.

It has been difficult over the last four years to maintain our full quota of councillors which is nine members. Four years ago only five people stood for election and we gradually co-opted others only to see others then leave. At the start of the year Lizzie Hunton left after two years with us and in the summer we were joined by Chris Taylor and in January this year Terry Wilkins was co-opted. Unfortunately only eight candidates stood for election this year so there will be an uncontested election – and we are still one member short.

- I think by far the best and most successful thing the council did this year was the setting up of a Youth Group with the professional assistance of the Y.M.C.A.
- Councillors have been involved in organising some enjoyable community events such as Norfolk Day, the Christmas Tree lighting event on the green; the Armistice Day service and are currently planning an Easter event.
- Planning is the issue - always! This is where we get the most response from the members of the public – and councillors too. It is important; and with our Neighbourhood Plan all new applications are monitored against it to see if they are suitable. Interestingly we are almost up to our allocated numbers already so it will be interesting to see what happens.
- The PC is responsible for the maintenance of several areas of the village and we are ably assisted in this by our handyman Peter. We look after the village green and play area; the churchyard, cemetery and allotments and have just agreed a commuted sum with the developers for upkeep of the communal areas off Cedar Rise which will become our responsibility once completed.

- The cemetery in Burgh Lane is part of our remit but there is now little space left for burials there. At the present rate - currently only about five per year – we estimate only about another three years capacity left. The council are currently seeking ways to overcome this potential problem although we are not obliged to make this provision I think it right that we do.
- During the year councillors have attended meetings of the Parish & Town Council Forum A47 dualling between Easton and N. Tuddenham which will affect our access to the A47 and the Western Link Road connecting the NDR to the A47.
- The PC regularly gives financial support to village organisations to ensure their survival and none more so than the Community Car Scheme now in its thirtieth year thanks to Anita Boarer who works so hard for it.
- The council are considering setting up a Speedwatch Group. We continue to gather data from our S.A.M. signs which can prove useful when presenting planning arguments for example.
- We are currently looking to erect a commemorative sign to Mattishall's World War One airfield (actually in East Tuddenham for tactical purposes).

Finally, I would like to thank Luisa our clerk for her hard work; our District Councillors and County Councillor for their support and of course to our parish councillors who work hard and are a conscientious and friendly group.

Thank you.

Richard Norton  
Chairman  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2019