

CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all **electors** of Fingringhoe Parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matters of local interest.

The Parish Council meet on the first Tuesday of every month (apart from August) and we would welcome seeing you there too, where a specific time is set aside for you to speak and raise local matters of concern.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Before I start my report, I would just like to take a moment to remember Rosemary Harvey who was the former Parish Clerk, and all the good work she did for this Council over many years. Sadly, Rosemary passed away last year but we would like to remember her today and pay our respects to her and her family.

We welcomed Petra to the Council in June of last year and she is doing a good job following in Rosemary's footsteps.

Petra's first meeting was also the Council's first face to face meeting after Covid. Before that we were still carrying out our meetings by video call and trying to carry on the best we could. Covid has been a huge challenge to everyone (and still is) but it was fantastic to see how the community pulled together to help everyone.

As this is a Parish meeting and the time tonight is for you to speak, I will give you a quick run down of some of the work we have carried out last year and what we hope to do next year and in the future.

- **TOMMY** – you will have seen the new Tommy on Pigs Foot Green, which was kindly donated by Rosemary's husband, David Harvey and will stay there as a permanent tribute to the nations fallen soldiers and those who continue to serve.
- **PLAY AREA** – work has started on the play area refurbishment. We were lucky enough to get a £2000 grant and the Council is funding the rest. This will include new seating, new rockers, a new see saw, a new surface in the enclosed area and a general tidy up of the whole space. Unfortunately, the play area suffered when Storm Eunice got the better of a large Eucalyptus tree which fell into the play area, damaging the fence, smashing the multi play unit and narrowly missing the two new rockers and leaving a huge root hole. Work will recommence shortly, but meanwhile we are looking in to a new multiplay unit and awaiting the insurance claim.
- **CHURCH GREEN** – a working party met in October to help clear the pond and tidy up the area. Maintenance work has also been carried out on the trees and we are looking at some warning signage for the pond. Unfortunately, another tree also fell during the storm and ended up in the school playground so we hastily had to arrange

removal of it so the school could reopen after the half term break. You may have also noticed that the concrete post and rails along the road are in need of repair, and we have now managed to source a supplier for these and hope to be able to arrange this work shortly.

- JOHN BRUNNING WALK – the Council have agreed to fund some signage for this walk which fell into disrepair during the development at Rowhedge. We have been working with members of the Brunning family to make this happen.
- PHONE BOX OPPOSITE THE WHALEBONE – we have been approached by a student who asked if this could be turned in to a book swap. The old contents have been removed and the student is arranging for shelving to be put in. We also hope to put a solar light in. We hope that this will complement the Book Swap already in place at the Post Office. If any of you have books to donate to get the project up and running, please contact Petra.
- NOTICE BOARDS – I hope by now that you have seen the 3 new notice boards at Dudley Road, opposite the Whalebone and Church Road. One half of the board is for Council business and the other half is for matters of local interest. We know that the notice boards are a valuable means of communication for the village and hope they are well used and an improvement on the old ones.
- ROAD SIGNS – I met last week with Cllr Kevin Bentley who is the chairman of ECC and Cllr Scott Lee who is the Cabinet member for Highways. They drove around the village and looked at a number of issues we have highlighted including:
 - ◆ A give way sign at the school junction on Fingringhoe Road
 - ◆ The area around the phone box and notice board opposite the Whalebone
 - ◆ Road signs that have been damaged and/or missing
 - ◆ Anything else you discussed
- QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE – the village jubilee committee have arranged several festivities over the jubilee weekend (2 June – 5 June) which you have probably already heard about. The Council will be erecting a fire beacon which will be situated at the end of Ferry Road. There will be a beacon lighting ceremony on Thursday 2nd June at 9.45pm. This is part of a coordinated event of more than 1500 beacons being lit all over the country to pay tribute to the Queen. Before and after the ceremony some refreshments will be available, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.
- BACKGROUND WORK – work continues in the background, and we been agreeing the annual contracts for bin collections, safety inspections for the play area, revisiting risk assessments, defibrillator service, annual insurance and the Councils working practices. We are also looking at having a comprehensive tree inspection report which will help us manage the health and safety of the trees the Council owns or has responsibility for. There are always plenty of emails and always plenty to do.

- FINALLY – if you are not already aware, the Council has a new website which is www.fingringhoepc.org.uk If you would like the details of a village club published on there or other matters of local interest, please contact Petra on fingringhoeparishc@outlook.com.

Council elections are coming up on 5th May and all the councillors have put themselves forward again for another term. However, we do still have a vacancy and although it is too late to put in a nomination now, we can still co-opt a new councillor after 5 May 2022. If you are interested, please contact one of the Councillors or Petra for more information. Being on the Council can help to influence local decisions and have a positive impact on your surroundings. It's about 12 meetings a year and some emails every week – so not a huge commitment when all the work is shared out.