

# Drinkstone Parish Council

## Chairmans Report

**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Dated 6 June 2022.**

**Agenda Item; Councillor portfolios**

### **OVERVIEW AND UPDATE SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

The Parish Councillors have completed separate summary reports based on their portfolios and I would like to acknowledge all of the hard work the current team of Councillors have put in over the past 12 months. Regrettably we have lost two councillors through resignation and I would like to thank them for their contribution. We currently have a vacancy for footpath warden. In addition to thanking the council a heartfelt thanks goes out to Jane Hill, who for the past 12 months has done an amazing job as Clerk to the PC. Jane has now handed the reins over to Michael Walton who I am sure will do an equally impressive job. Each Councillor is submitting a summary report for each of their portfolios and therefore there is no need for to duplicate the content in this report.

In April 2021 the Parish Council agreed a Five year strategic plan for the Village based around making Drinkstone a better place to live whilst at the same time driving efficiency in the operating costs of the council itself. The planting of over 12,000 daffodils was a great community effort and will create a lasting legacy for years to come. Other objectives we set ourselves have been reported in the separate individual reports.

In May 2021 the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan was adopted and a big thanks to all of those who helped make this happen. Although it will require updating periodically it has created a legal blue print to ensure that any future development in Drinkstone is done in line with the document and villagers wishes.

The current team of Councillors will be required to stand down next year and if they so wish seek re-election. I would actively encourage any residents who may wish to become a councillor to speak with any member of the existing team and seriously consider putting themselves forward. It can be particularly rewarding, especially when you see the fruits of your labour throughout the village. In line with the strategic objective of making Drinkstone a better place to live, the PC are working on delivering a number of new initiatives over the next 12 months including but not limited to:

- Public transport solution (particularly for older residents)
- Tidy up and re-fence the Parish land on Rattlesden Rd
- Additional daffodils in areas which were not planted last year
- A village Christmas tree

- Lest we forget statues
- Additional seating on the footpaths
- Play equipment maintenance
- Viability of an annual civic event
- Engaging the younger generation
- PC carbon footprint
- Update the PC website
- Welcome gates
- Additional speed reduction methods
- White line repainting at Blacksmiths corner
- Railings to be replaced and painted outside The Rectory
- Footpath repairs and maintenance
- Refurbishment of the Village sign on Green Close

Finally I would like to express my gratitude and a huge thanks to all the volunteers who have helped the Parish Council achieve its objectives in the past 12 months and for taking pride in our wonderful village.

Richard Edmondson

**Chair Drinkstone Parish Council**