

# **ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The recent pandemic and its restrictions has resulted in the Parish Council not being able to support Parishioners as we would have wanted. In addition not having a Parish Clerk in post, resulted in some statutory items not being completed. Finally our Chairman Robert Todd resigned for family reasons. I would like to thank him for his efforts as chairman..

Inadvertently during this period the Council did not meet for at least six months, which resulted in Parish Councillors being automatically dismissed. This matter was luckily quickly resolved with the help of South Norfolk District Council and Parish Councillors were reinstated for the remainder of their term of office. I am pleased to report that your Parish Councillors have managed to clear the backlog in the administration and we are now meeting our legal obligations. We also now have Tina Higlett as our Parish Clerk.

I am particularly grateful to Mark Rolph for the work he carried out on the Parish Finances and the other Parish Councillors for their support and help.

One of the first items that has arisen is the South Norfolk Emerging Local Plan and in particular the Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan, which shows four sites put forward by landowners in Ashby St Mary.

In 2005 after a survey of all residents and a 95% return, the Local Plan was prepared for the village. The overwhelming desire of all residents was that the only development should be infilling of plots within the Development Boundary of the Village.

The Plan has been reviewed regularly since 2005 and the wishes of the residents of the village have remained unchanged.

South Norfolk District Council have not included the sites in Ashby in their developing Plan and the Parish have confirmed their support for the decision by the District Council.

The Parish Council Local Plan continues to be the policy for any development in the village and only infilling of plots within the Development Boundary will be considered.

During the pandemic there has definitely been an increase in dog ownership nationally. This has unfortunately caused problems not only in Ashby but in other villages nearby. Dog owners, not necessarily from Ashby, have not only allowed their dogs to foul the footway's and public rights of way, but even if they have picked up the dog waste, it has then been left on private land or hung in adjoining hedges and trees. This is of course, unacceptable, and I would ask all dog walkers to treat our lovely village with respect and put their waste into the bin on Mill Road or take it home.

To help the situation we will be providing another bin at the junction of Church Road and Chapel Road.

Residents have also raised the problem of Public Rights of Way and in particular The Loke in Mill Common, this has been checked and it is not a Public Right of Way, but is a private road.

Residents can check this themselves by visiting the Norfolk County Council Highways website. A map of all the public Roads and rights of way is also shown on the Parish Web Site.

During the lockdown Sarah Cook(Ashby) and Karen Bonsell (Thurton) coordinated help for the residents within our two villages and we are grateful to them both for this community effort.

Ashby St Mary together with Thurton were given a blue plaques to commemorate our communities resilience in the year of the Pandemic and these are to be erected in the Village Hall and School.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated from 2nd-5th June 2022 and a sub committee from Thurton and Ashby will be considering how we celebrate together, this special occasion

Further details will be published as they are agreed.

As a result of having to put our house in order and in order to meet our statutory requirements it has been necessary to raise the Parish Precept for the year 2022/3 by £240.

This represents an increase for a Band D property of £0.86.