



# DULLINGHAM Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

## Chairman's Report 2024/25

It's been another busy year for the Parish Council and here is a short report on some of the work that's been going on in the village.

**Pond** - We obtained a Pride of Place grant to carry out some work in this area of the village. This helped us to buy a new bench made of recycled plastic to replace the wooden one that fell apart. We also carried out some tree pruning, general clearance of the bank and cut the reeds back to a manageable level. The pond information board was also taken away and given a total refurb.

**Play Area** - Some of the play equipment is starting to show signs of wear and tear. The roller had to be removed due to a broken top bar and the stepping posts are about to be removed due to some of them splitting. The old see saw was removed and has been replaced with a new one and we hope to replace some of the lost pieces of equipment as and when funds are available.

The back perimeter fence has once again been the subject of vandalism with a number of posts being kicked off twice which is disappointing. Screwing them back on is a job we could do without. If passers by could keep an eye out it would be appreciated.

**Sports Field and Pavilion** - We have continued to make some improvements to the building with some electric heating, loft insulation and some new curtains. It still needs updating in some areas but is now a much improved facility to what it was and is available to hire at reasonable rates. We have also installed a new defibrillator, which was purchased with match funding, to replace a much older style model.

Newmarket Cricket Club are now entering their third season at the ground and continue to develop their club. This includes a ladies team which proved popular last year and the juniors which they are encouraging by visiting the local schools. We wish them well for the new season.

**Potholes** - One piece of positive news on this subject was the resurfacing of the traffic calming area at Old Maids Corner which had needed doing for a few years. Whilst we cannot take much credit for this, it was good to see it done. We hope that the same could be said for the state of the road going out of Dullingham towards Newmarket. As we have mentioned before, the only way to complain is on the Cambs County Council website under the report a highways problem heading.

That along with possibly a letter to our MP may help bring the much needed works forward as it is a dangerous stretch of road at the moment, particularly in the dark.

**Volunteering**- Our thanks go out to the two ladies who spent a day cutting back, clearing out and sprucing up the picnic tables at the Millenium garden. It was much appreciated.

Thankyou very much to all the people involved in the time consuming task of setting up the village speedwatch group. This has not proved to be a straightforward thing to achieve.

Also a big thankyou to our Station adopters who are continuing to do marvelous work down at our lovely station. They have gained some sort of notoriety with local media, popping up here and there in papers and tv articles. It can get overlooked as it's somewhat detached from the village but please go and have a look when you have a spare moment.

Thanks also to local councillor James Lay for providing a free defibrillator training evening at the sports pavilion. Run by East Anglian Air Ambulance, it was well attended and most informative.

If anyone would like to help out in a voluntary capacity at any time in any way please get in touch.

**Farewell and Hello** - May we take this opportunity to thank Sarah Mardon, who has retired from the PC, for all her good work, particularly on footpaths and the environment. She will be sadly missed. On the plus side we welcome new councilors Simon Park and Julie Murden and we have another application pending which should bring us up to full strength once more.

Finally a big thankyou to my fellow Councilors for all their hard work throughout the year and particularly our Clerk, Karen who has the job of keeping us on track.

Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming year.

Robert Algar

Chair Dullingham Parish Council

### **Update to Report since AGM**

Since the Chairmans report was written there are a few updates already.

The pothole situation on the B1061, while not being completely fixed has been made a little less precarious than it was. It is a far from perfect piece of road surface maintenance and probably won't take too long to deteriorate again. It is scheduled for a complete overhaul in the future but that will likely be well into next year if not longer.

The Speed Watch Team completed their first speed watch session along Brinkley Road on the evening of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. They reported back that it went very well and motorists were certainly slowing down, although inevitably quite a few were above the speed limit. It's hoped that people will be more inclined to regulate their speed if they feel that someone maybe there to monitor it. Once again, our many thanks go out to the group, it's been tough to get to this stage.

Dullingham Station has been mentioned in yet another magazine article. Country Living has included it in their list of the best forty secret gardens to visit in the country and it's just down the road in our village. Fantastic.

Finally we would like to thank Alan Sharpe for all his hard work as a Cambs County Councillor. Alan will now be stepping down in that role and hopefully he can now take it a little easier although he will still be our representative as a District Councillor.

We welcome Jonny Edge as Alan's replacement in that role and look forward to working with him in the future. We hope to see Jonny in person at our next PC meeting on June 5th.

**Contact Information, minutes and details of how to hire the Sport Field/Pavilion can be found at:**

[www.dullingham-pc.org.uk](http://www.dullingham-pc.org.uk)

**Or contact our Clerk at  
clerk@dullingham-pc.org.uk**