

2023/24 Chairs report for Mileham Annual Parish Council Meeting

Firstly, I must apologise for my absence tonight but know I am leaving you in the capable hands of our vice chair Councillor Nick Clowe, thank you Nick.

2023/24 has again had some changes within the council, Mark Butler-Stoney left the Parish Council along with Lorraine Truman the Clerk and we welcomed Clair Haswell and more recently Rosie Smith onto the council and Nea Horsford as our new Clerk. We would like to thank Mark for all his contributions over the years and Lorraine for her support. We warmly welcome Clair, Rosie and Nea who have already been extremely active in their new roles.

This year we have been trying to continue and complete projects which have been incomplete and inherited, whilst continuing with our aims and ambitions for future, remaining within our budget and resources.

We were thrilled to announce in January that the trod, on Stanfield Road was completed and we were finally able to remove this from future agendas.

The council continues to support local organisations and one way we do that is by funding for the regular cutting of the playing field, which is owned and managed by the Playing Field Charity. We have had limited information this year to secure our Parish Council representatives as Trustees onto the Playing Field Charity and this remains on our agenda for 2024. We have been assured that a date will be available soon for the AGM. We are currently putting on hold the grass cutting until maintenance of the play equipment is completed which was identified as needed by a safety inspection. The inspection was organised and paid for by the Parish Council following an incident involving a local child. Safety of the residents of Mileham is paramount to us.

There have been various planning applications this year and one developer attended the Parish Council meeting to discuss their plans with us all. All updates on applications can be found on Breckland District Council's website.

We continue to share a SAM2 sign to encourage drivers to slow down through our village, and this needed to be repaired this year. The Parish Council are looking into the possibility of the village having our own sign using grant funding. Hopefully we will have more updates next year.

The Old Primary School Sites also known as The Free School Charity remains high on our agenda. We are moving towards the Parish Council becoming trustees of this charity and are seeking third party advice for this to happen. Thank you, Nick, for keeping this on course.

Clair has taken on the role of insuring we keep residents informed by writing and submitting our article in the Church and Village magazine. Clair also has taken on the weekly checks of the defibrillator.

Finally, we also have plans for a memorial wreath and a village Christmas tree this year.

As Councillors we have all taken on roles and responsibilities to ensure we can get our plans for the village completed. We still have vacancies and if anyone is interested in joining the team please get in touch.

I would like to thank all our supporters, District and County Councillors who help guide us and keep us informed, members of the public who join our meetings to raise important issues, and who bring ideas to the table, and to all our councillors and volunteers who give their time.