

# GISSING PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Parish Meeting

3 May 2022 at 7.00pm at Gissing Community Building

Cllr David Eddington, Chair of Gissing Parish Council, opened the meeting by welcoming councillors and members of the public.

Cllr Eddington gave his report on the Parish Council for the year just ended, and this was followed by a brief public discussion. The text of the Chair's Report is as follows:

### **Chairmans report - Annual Parish Meeting May 3rd 2022**

I am pleased to give the annual report beginning with acknowledgement of the excellent work carried out by all.

The Parish Council has worked extremely hard throughout the year for the benefit of the community with several successes.

#### **Finance**

This year with inflation on the rise and many problems ahead for residents, the Parish Council has chosen to keep the precept at a very low level to avoid adding extra costs for villagers.

- The council have made an arrangement with the Heart of Gissing, the Children's centre and the church for them to make a contribution to the maintenance of the car park. This will help with the general upkeep and the pothole situation in the carpark
- The council has engaged a new solicitor to push ahead with the sale of the Old Village Hall. They very much hope that this can lead to a speedy resolution which will be of great benefit to the village.
- Howard Dyke carried out a tree survey of Upper Street which was particularly useful in identifying which trees need attention and possible remedial work. He also identified areas where new trees could be planted.

#### **B4RN**

The B4RN project has been completed and has proved a great success with many homes connected with gigabit broadband. The councillors, and I am sure the village, would like to acknowledge the efforts which the B4RN team has made to get this task done. The group has also accrued a surplus of funds, which will enable them to make grants to community groups. I am sure that this will be very helpful going forward.

## **Flooding**

Work has continued, to try and alleviate the risk of flooding, with a joint initiative between councillors from the three villages of, Gissing, Burston, and Shimpling, who have met to discuss ways of working together to try to make a difference. We have also registered with "Saving the Rain", a group dedicated to finding ways to make better use of the rain that falls during wet periods.

## **Village Life**

The council has taken on a maintenance person to keep the village tidy and carry out various tasks around the village. Signposts have begun to be placed at various places around the village for the benefit of ramblers. There are plans to erect a village sign to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee along with several planned events. Heart of Gissing has continued to increase the footfall in the community building and help residents emerge from the Pandemic. Along with the Children's centre it continues to provide many useful services for the village.

Thanks again to all who have given their valuable time to help the Parish Council and enable them to carry out their tasks successfully and thank you to fellow councillors for their commitment throughout the year.

David Eddington

Chair