

# Gissing Parish Council

## Annual Parish Council Meeting

### Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone and welcome. Before we start the official business, I would just like to pay a tribute to our late County Councillor, Barry Duffin, who sadly passed away recently.

Barry was always ready to help and support our Parish Council with any problems that we had and would do his best to help us achieve a satisfactory outcome, or at least point us in the right direction. He was also committed to working for several other Parish councils as well as the County council, which could not have been an easy task especially with the additional problems that have affected us over the past few years. He will be sadly missed by a lot of people.

Nationally it has been a year of great change, with a change of monarch and 3 Prime ministers.

Here in Gissing, we began the year with the celebrations for our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council organised a Hog Roast followed by the beacon lighting, which was well attended and I would like to thank the Gissing support Group for their help with this event and for supplying and lighting the **unique beacon**. I think it should be patented!

The Heart of Gissing, laid on a splendid afternoon tea and the Friends of the Church hosted a wonderful musical evening with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology in our ancient church.

I would like to thank all those who helped and took part in these events and also Mike Harrowven for flying the flags.

A few months later we were mourning the death of our late Queen and now we look forward to celebrating the King's Coronation this coming weekend.

## Village Sign

The village sign is now complete and will be unveiled on Sunday. I would like to thank George Hammond for all his help and B4RN for the grant towards this sign.

## Finance

This year we have decided to keep the precept the same because of the ongoing cost of living problems, although with rising costs to the Parish Council this is something the new council we need to look at, for the next year.

## Highways

Highways have at last repaired the bridge over the beck at the junction of Wash Lane and Common Road. However, there are still a number of highway maintenance and repair problems in the parish that are still long outstanding.

## Footpaths

There is an access issue with one of the footpaths in the parish. The access officer from South Norfolk and Breckland Council is dealing with this and hopefully will resolve the problem.

## Flooding

The Parish Council is liaising with the landowners, property owners, Waveney River Trust and the Environmental Agency to try and find a solution to the flooding problem, as advised by the senior risk officer, as he did not consider the Gissing flooding problem a large enough concern for him to deal with.

## The Old Village Hall

The solicitor who has been working towards the sale of the old village hall for the past 2 years is still having difficulties with the Charity Commission. Despite a positive meeting earlier in the year unfortunately they are no longer responding to her calls. The problem seems to be poor communication between all the various bodies involved.

All in all, despite the best efforts of the members of the Parish Council and other local groups, progress on several matters continues to be frustratingly slow, but this seems to be the way things are at the moment, especially when dealing with government departments and some businesses.

