

Cley Parish Council's Chairman's Report May 2024

As this month marks the start of a new parish year, I thought you might be interested to hear the highlights of the past year.

First of all, I'd like to thank the Cley Parish Cllrs and clerk for all their hard work and dedication this year. Thanks also to Don Harrod who does a fantastic job keeping the Curloo spic and span.

We've finally managed to raise awareness with authorities of the safety issues with the steps coming down from the bank into Coast Road at Artemis. The Trails team will be arranging the infilling of the lower step and fitting a handrail extension.

We have now spent all our Community Support Grant of £1500 which we received from the Norfolk Community Foundation. We are hoping to refresh our parish community support fund with grant funding ready for next winter.

Our intrepid Toadwatch team saved over 1000 toads and frogs this season which is absolutely brilliant.

Cllr Richard Deane has been looking at data from our speed camera. The volume of traffic is staggering with up to 2000 vehicles a day coming down Holt Hill and 1500 along the Coast Road. The worst area for speeding is Blakeney Hill with an average speed of 25mph in the 20mph zone.

Thank you all very much indeed for your support to save Blakeney Surgery. Despite our campaign the Integrated Care Board decided to close the surgery with a six-month grace period to agree on mitigation for the loss of medicines collection.

Due to Gemma's fantastic grant writing skills, the Parish Council was awarded a grant of £1500 towards the running costs of the community café, open every Wednesday.

Our litter picks have been a great success.

We have adopted a biodiversity policy for the parish which shows the part Cley Parish Council plays in conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the area. We have also agreed a footpath and loke policy, trying to balance the need to maintain access with the desire to preserve habitat.

We need to have the improvement works for Newgate Green programmed in by Highways.

Cley Parish Council is pleased a decision has been made on Arcady.

We had a very successful year on the allotments which are now in credit for the first time.

Following October's floods on the River Glaven at Letheringsett, and the two storm overflows from Holt Sewage Treatment Works, Anglian Water attended to answer questions on water quality in the Glaven.

Work has been progressing, albeit slowly, on our Neighbourhood Plan.

Regarding the parish's budget for next year, we have tried to keep our spending as close to this year's as possible. However, we have slightly fewer houses now paying council tax so the cost per average sized property is up very slightly. The Curloo and Community Café are not included in the parish budget as they are funded by donations.

Electric vehicle charge points were debated again last year but we did not receive the necessary information from NCC so we've deferred our decision.

We think the village needs a second defibrillator that is more accessible to the High Street. It is not in our budget so we are going to try to grant fund.

The Heritage Walk has been such a success we have now printed 6000 leaflets! There is now an information board at the start on the Curloo and one in preparation for in front of the church.

We continued to receive complaints last year about late night noise disturbance. It is important to log instances so there is a record.

The Coronation Picnic was a huge success.

Going forward, there is a new requirement to register birds even if you only have a few. This is to help control avian flu and can be done via a national register available on the .gov.uk website.

A parishioner has asked about the possibility of a basket ball hoop somewhere near the playing fields. It would be great to have activities for older children. We've passed this onto the Village Hall who are looking into it.

There will be a village working party on Post Office Loke in September. All welcome!

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday June 13th in the Village Hall at 6.30pm. The agenda will be published on the Notice Board, on the website (www.cleypc.info) and we'll mail it out to those on the Parish email list (if you want to be included in this please email the Clerk) and the village WhatsApp group. Please comment on or ask general questions about Agenda items before the meeting by getting in touch with the clerk or myself, or come along and participate. Minutes are posted as usual on the website.

Dr Victoria Holliday, Chair

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