

Hersden Parish Council

Chair Persons Report

May 2024



I would like to start this report by saying how great our little village is and how its changed for the better over the last few years and how welcoming our residents are to others and new residents to the village.

This was my first year as Chairman so I cannot say it was easy, there were some challenges and lots of learning along the way, but somehow we have pulled it off! The council has finally reached its capacity of parish councillors (the first time since 2019). We have a great team with a varied skillset and I speak for us all when I say we have the same agenda, which is to represent and love our Parish and residents.

Our Clerk does a fantastic Job in keeping us legal, organised and efficient, but most of all puts in the effort one hundred percent of the time. We have built excellent relationships with; the community wardens, our beat officer, City and County Councillors and the ministry of justice who have assisted us with lots of our projects.

I am pleased now to have the opportunity to update everyone with what has been going on in Hersden over the last 12 months. Some of the projects we as a council have started or completed are:

- Defibrillator at the Welfare club – we bought and installed a second unit so there is 24-hour access to life saving equipment at both ends of the village. (they have both at separate times been issued from the 999 control centre)
- Planted 50 Trees throughout the Avenue, with the help of the Community Service.
- Working with Kent Wildlife Trust and CCC to put preservation orders on the Pyes wood.
- Worked with the water and gas companies to rectify the surface drainage throughout Hersden. The gas main had been laid through the water pipe some years ago.
- Attended Memorial service and paid our respects by laying a wreath.

- Had a pavement-parking ban put in across the avenue and some of the main road, making it safe for our residents to walk through our parish.
- Purchased a new bench to replace the memorial bench on Island Road, this is due to be installed very soon by the Community Service people.
- Cleared and reseeded the front green where the telephone box used to be, creating a more welcoming approach to the Village.
- Worked with Canterbury Council and the regeneration team to start the process of rebuilding the pavilion.
- Agreed on works for the playground, to improve it where we can, this will be completed by summer this year.
- Funded two good causes/ projects in Hersden

One of these is the D-day 80 year Celebration at the Welfare Club and the other is to the Community Warden who has created a Men's Shed to help with men's mental health.

As always, we do face issues with dog fouling throughout the village so this is just a polite reminder that we have poo bags and holders in the parish office free of charge, so please if you don't have any come and get some.

Jack Brabham
Chairman.