**Parish Council News**

As we come to the end of the four year term of office for our current Parish Council, this is an opportunity to look back at what the Council has been doing on everyone’s behalf over this period.

The Parish Council’s income each year “the precept”, which comes from the Council Tax you pay is about £21,000. A very large proportion of this is spent on grass cutting and tree maintenance in the play area, the amenity land next to the Chequers, the churchyards and burial ground at St Peter’s and St John’s and other small areas in the parish. We are also responsible for a number of street lights in Wrestlingworth and the upkeep of the play area.

Three years of hard work begun in 2015 culminated with the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan in January 2018. Workshops, a questionnaire and drop-in sessions drew together the residents’ vision for the future of our community to 2031. Following a referendum in November 2017 the Neighbourhood Plan is now supplementary planning guidance for CBC. As with many activities undertaken by the Parish Council, this could not have been achieved without the help of residents who willingly gave up their time to assist, a contribution that the Parish Council is very grateful for. A Green Infrastructure Plan for the parish was drawn up at the same time and monitoring of this has been taken on by the Parish Walking & Wildlife Group.

Following the designation of several Community Green Space areas in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Council is in the process of acquiring two parcels of land in Cockayne Hatley from the Co-op. One of these will be enhanced by residents for community use.

Residents also run the Community Speed Watch scheme initiated by the Council in 2015. The group, who now have their own speed detection equipment, are always looking for new volunteers. Please use contact details below if you are able to assist.

Using reserves from earlier years, new play equipment and fencing has been purchased to improve the amenities in the play area in Wrestlingworth. A financial contribution has also been made to the traffic calming scheme first mooted in 2016 and currently underway in the High Street between Potton Road and the cross roads.

The Parish Council has an important role to play in lobbying CBC and other authorities for enhancements and improvements to our community. Sometimes these efforts can take a frustratingly long time but pay off in the end. A reduction in the speed limit at the cross roads in Wrestlingworth and a speed camera have both been achieved this year. We now have superfast broadband to the exchange in Wrestlingworth, but not yet to Cockayne Hatley (we are still working on that). A mobile phone mast has been installed on Tadlow Road. We have also called for a bus service for Cockayne Hatley, without any success yet. We have been working with CBC to achieve affordable housing and allotments on the Rural Exception Site they own on Potton Road. We hope to see a planning application this Spring. We also regularly lobby CBC and Anglian Water to maintain the Brook as much as finances will allow.

The Parish Council is not a planning authority but does get the chance to comment on planning applications received by CBC. We have supported infill development, the new development at Randalls Close, and plans for extensions to existing homes. We also supported residents in objecting to an application and subsequent appeal by the land owner for 30 houses on Co-op land to the east of Braggs Lane.

The Parish Council has the power to give small grants to village organisations and over the four year period have assisted both St John’s and St Peter’s churches and many parish groups and societies.

Parish Councillors are volunteers and, together with many others from the community, work to improve our quality of life. Find out more on the new website <https://wrestlingworthandcockaynehatley-pc.gov.uk>

**A Volunteering Opportunity**

Following Peter Lenk’s move from the village in December we are looking for someone to volunteer a little of their time on the Millennium Garden and the flower bed by the Wrestlingworth sign in the Slade. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk on 631383 or wrestlingworth@aol.com

**The Parish Council.**