



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2021 to March 2022



The first Council meeting of the year was held on 25th May with the full council. Councillor Downes was elected Chair for the coming year. There are 9 councillors, B.Baker, B.Beales, Ms R.Collins, R.Cropp, J.Downes, R.Keymer, Mrs. S.Ward . Unfortunately two councillors left during the year Mrs. S.Barton and R.Kidger. Two vacancies exist on the Council.

The Council resolved to meet monthly instead of every 6 weeks on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. All councillors took on a responsibility of once a month inspections of all assets in the parish. Three new dog waste bins were purchased and erected.

There are now noticeboards at The Foal Ground, the playground, the allotments, Peatlings Lane and The Chase. All agendas and minutes are inserted once a month and they are also put on the website. There is also a noticeboard holding all relevant interment information in the cemetery.

The Council has only garden plot allotments now and they are all taken. Occasionally there is an enquiry but 'growing your own' doesn't seem a popular pastime.

As the chairman has stated in his report, highway matters are a priority. All this council can do is report all problems of roads and paths to the authorities. County Councillor Simon King supports the Council and also reports the problems to the County Council. A thank you to him for his assistance in these matters and to the two District Councillors for coming to each meeting and helping where they can. It is hoped that the Leverington Common and Sutton Road traffic calming measures will be put into operation. The Parish now owns all the street lights (107), and each one has a number for easy identification if you need to report a defect. The roadside benches are inspected monthly and the footpaths walked, one of which is to be diverted slightly because of the new development along Sutton Road. The village sign has been repaired and repainted many times over the last ten years so the Council has ordered a new sign but the design will stay the same. For election purposes, the boundaries of the Wards may be changed and some of Leverington will have to vote in the Wisbech area and not in the Village Hall as previous election years.

There are always changes in the Parish Lawn Cemetery each year. Two chairs were purchased for the Rose Garden, trees were donated from a nurseryman to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a special bench has been ordered. Beside the contractors who keep the grass mown and hedges cut, two ladies helped last year to keep the cemetery tidy. The council thanks them all for their care and attention to making this a peaceful and serene place for families to come to the resting place of their loved ones. A further 8 yew trees have been donated from a local person. The small WW1 memorial now stands proudly at the WW1 area and a small dedication was held on Remembrance Sunday with a cross for each serviceman put in the planters. As congestion occurs on the Gorefield Road at funeral times, the Council has laid matting so that cars are able to park in the cemetery.

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Representing the Interests of the Community it serves.

Planning applications are received frequently and the Council inspects the site and gives comments to the Planning Authority. Around 50 applications have been received during the year with the council comments recorded in the minutes of each meeting. The development along the Sutton Road of over 200 homes is now underway.

The council's two Recreation sites are popular. The Foal Ground Family Park, with children's play and fitness equipment, now has a zip wire. More fruit trees have been put in with the existing apple tree. It will take a few years for them to mature but fruit will be there for anyone to pick. Now that the council knows the location of the 3g pitch and has the assurance that it won't affect the Church Road Playground, it can install new and bring the existing equipment up to standard.

The Council has purchased and looks after two defibrillators in the village. At this time, residents have asked for two more to be installed. These have to be inspected monthly, with a report sent in. Also an annual fee is paid for each one, but if they save a life, it's worth every penny. The most important thing is to make sure they are in good order.

At his death, a tribute to His Royal Highness, Prince Philip was put on to the web site on behalf of the people of Leverington and the flag was flown at half-mast. Called Operation Bridges, the protocol required to be put into operation by all councils at the demise of Royalty or prominent persons is in place and ready for implementation in Leverington and at the given time will be on the web site and in the noticeboards. The website conforms to government regulations and can be accessed by everyone.

After a year of being unable to meet, the council agendas have been full and so much work has been undertaken to keep the village up to standard. The councillors have put many hours into discussions and resolutions. A big thank you to every one of them for their commitment to the parish.

Clerk.