**Chairman of Nacton Parish Council – report for 2023**

William Cook, a parish councillor, parish tree warden and a great supporter of the parish council, sadly, died earlier this year. His wise advice and no-nonsense approach to problems will be greatly missed.

During the last year, Jayne Munford and Angus Eaton joined the parish council. David Garrett, who had been ill for some time, resigned for health reasons and Ros Eaton also resigned from the parish council.

Following the uncontested parish councils in May, there are seven councillors, meaning that there are two vacancies. Anyone interested in filling one of these, should either contact Clare Lucas our parish clerk and, or attend a parish council meeting.

Over the last 12 months there has been a change in the way we administer the council. Councillors decided to appoint a Responsible Finance Officer, who would manage our precept, thus allowing Clare Lucas more time to keep cpuncillors updated and to produce the excellent newsletters, amongst many other things. Brian Mansfield, a Nacton was appointed and has already proved to be an invaluable asset.

Finally, Andrew Williams, the retiring Nacton Home Farm Manager, has agreed to become the new Tree Warden. He has already been busy replacing a dead tree in Victoria Field.

As ever, my thanks to all councillors, the clerk and the RFO for their hours of dedicated workover the last 12 months.

The Victoria Field project has moved on at a pace over the past 12 months. The trim trail has been put in place and has proved very popular. Additional seating has been put in, the hedge completed and 500 daffodils planted by the fruit and nut trees.

A small working party has been looking at ways to enhance the parish with the remaining Communities Funding. Following a parishioner survey and further meetings, it was decided at our March parish council meeting to pursue two projects. They were an information board in Paupers’ Wood and a Village Sign. It was also decided that parishioners might like to enter a competition for a sign, which is now underway.

There is a semi-circular path through Paupers Wood, should people wish to enjoy a short stroll and, in particular to enjoy the bluebells.

Finally, two bicycle racks were fixed at the two bus stops at the Felixstowe Road bus shelters.

Whilst more work remains to be completed, it is pleasing to report that the flooding under the railway bridge has not been a concern this year.

Newsletters continue to be created by our excellent clerk, Clare Lucas, which I hope residents find informative and interesting. Unless a specific request is made for a hard copy, these are e-mailed. Whether hard copies will continue to be delivered to individual properties will be reviewed. Copies are displayed on the parish council notice board outside the village hall.

A Remembrance Service was well attended at the war memorial on November 11th last year Several pupils from both schools joined those adults able to attend and three poppy wreaths were laid, by two pupils and the chair.

The Welcome to Nacton document has been updated and is available online. The Emergency Plan still requires an update, which should be completed this year. There will also be a shorter version of the EP, which will be e-mailed out.

I am very grateful for the support given by our various councillors. Patti Mulcahy, our county councillor has been particularly helpful over the bridge again, and our two district councillors, Michael Richardson and Richard Kerry have been able to give advice and support and, importantly funding.

The VAS continues to operate. The average speed seems to be about 30 mph, which is good news. Mike Whybray continues to send bi-monthly updates for us.

I am aware that many people give of their time very freely, in order to benefit the parish and in a variety of ways, many largely quietly and without fuss. Again, grateful thanks are due.

Brian Hunt