**Chairman of Nacton Parish Council – report for 2022**

During the last year, Emma Wilson and Iain Hatfield joined the parish council, with Cathy Newby, Steve Keys and Steve Potter standing down. Therefore, one vacancy remains on the parish council, a position we are anxious to fill as soon as possible. In addition, David Garrett has been seriously ill, and we all wish him a full recovery. My thanks to all councillors for their work during the past twelve months.

During the year two new and very smart, Parish Council notice boards have been put up. One outside the village hall and the other at the entrance to Priory Court.

Towards the end of last year, the Victoria Field working party made their recommendations to the parish council, which, very largely were accepted. Also, by the necessary funding to complete the various tasks had been raised, through a variety of sources, which meant that no precept money was required.

To date the hedge around the field has been almost entirely replaced. Some of the original hedge remains, which should grow back, together with the new plants. The aim is now to keep the hedge at a maximum height of between one and two metres, thereby enabling pedestrians to see over the top of the hedge to see if there is any oncoming traffic and therefore making crossing of the road near the war memorial much safer.

A Trim Trail, aimed at 7–12-year-olds should be in situ by the end of April. In addition, extra seating is being put down, two picnic tables and probably two benches. These are made out of recyclable plastic and therefore require no maintenance,

The two trees that died have been replaced and it is hoped that in the autumn an area will be planed with bulbs, in particular snowdrops and bluebells, to go with then hedgehog houses which are already in place. We are also in the process of purchasing two bicycle racks to be placed on the Felixstowe Road, near the bus shelters.

Finally, chat benches have been fitted at both Priory Court, near the entrance and on The Street near where the post office van stops. These were paid for by the Felixstowe Communities group.

Some funding remains to be spent, but further discussions will follow before a decision is reached on how best this might be done.

To many people’s relief, Suffolk County Council have, at last, agreed to complete a major work under the railway bridge in Nacton and to end the flooding problem. Stage one has already been completed, with ditches being dug and surveying being undertaken. Funding has been allocated to the project, so, we expect everything to be completed this year.

On Commonwealth Day, an oak Platinum Jubilee tree was planted, together with a plaque, in the playing field by four pupils of Nacton Primary School and four from Orwell Park. The tree is now protected by a fine metal cage.

Two newsletters have been compiled by our excellent clerk, Clare Lucas, one just before Christmas and the other just before Easter. Unless a specific request is made for a hard copy, the newsletter is e-mailed to residents. This is both a time and a financial saver and clearly makes sense.

A Remembrance Service was held at the war memorial on November 11th. Several pupils from both schools joined those adults able to attend and three poppy wreaths were laid.

The Parish Emergency Plan and the Welcome to Nacton documents are both being updated, with the aim to complete later 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, and our two district councillors, Michael Richardson and Richard Kerry have been able to give advice and support and, importantly funding.

The VAS has now two new posts upon which it may be fixed. With the battery not lasting long, keeping it functioning is a challenge, but it does give useful information, which Mike Whybray sends us regularly.

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.

Finally, my thanks go to my fellow councillors and most importantly our clerk, who keeps us informed and on our toes in a most charming and professional way.

Brian Hunt