

Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Pettistree Village by Zoom internet on 20th April 2021

The last Annual Parish Meeting was on 7th May 2019.

Meetings

The most recent normal meeting of the Parish Council was on 4th February 2020. An Annual Parish Meeting was planned for 5th May and the AGM of the Parish Council for 28th April 2020. Because of Covid lockdown neither of these meeting took place.

Every edition of Pettistree People has contained a report by me on recent events in the village and any urgent Parish Council business.

19th May 2021

Next Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council as at 20.04.21

Membership

Mr Jeff Hallett (Chairman)
Mrs Mary Chilvers
Mr James Hayward
Ms Sue Jones
Mr Mike Watts
Mr Philip Westrope
Mr Chris Cook

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mr Keith Bridges held this post until his unexpected, non-Covid-related death at the end of October 2020.

Mr Rod Caird took up the post from the end of November 2020 and is currently Clerk to the Parish Council.

MP, County & District Councillors

MP Therese Coffey
Suffolk County Councillor Alexander Nicoll (Wickham)
East Suffolk District Councillor. Carol Poulter (Wickham Market ward)

Mr Nicoll is standing again in the County Council election on 6th May 2021.

Changes in the Council

Steve Hind resigned from the Parish Council in June 2020 after several years of service to the Pettistree community.

Steve's position was filled by co-option on 30th July by Sue Jones

In November Terry Rowles also resigned after many years as a Parish councillor and more recently as vice chairman.

His position was filled by co-option of James Hayward who now manages the hayward farms in Pettistree and other parishes.

Roads and Pathways

Several large potholes have been filled in over recent months so our roads are in reasonable order.
We are still waiting for Suffolk CC Highways Dept. to finalize arrangements for our SID system (Speed Indicating Device)

Village Amenities.

Olivia Smith keeps the village green well mown using her own equipment. She receives a small honorarium.

Hedge cutting has been organised by Mr Louis Deliss and carried out very well by Alan Thurkettle

The heritage apple trees planted in the meadow part of the churchyard are growing well

The Village Hall has been repainted and is in generally good repair. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions have prevented its use for most of the year by either village or visiting groups.

The Village Marquee has proved invaluable over the Covid pandemic crisis. It could not be used for ordinary social events as there were none. When it was decided at the end of the first lockdown that pubs could re-open, the Parish Council and Village Hall decided to offer the use of the village marquee to the Greyhound pub to allow them to re-open and serve meals with appropriate social distancing. This went on until further lockdown periods were imposed. The marquee was a robust one, designed for use in wind and snow, and well secured in a sheltered spot. However, a very heavy snowfall overnight on 7th/8th February caused the roof to collapse, and this damaged the frame and canvas beyond repair. Fortunately, we had both insured it and obtained the insurers' agreement to its loan to the pub as a community asset. We have been paid by the insurers and now have to decide if we will purchase a similar marquee for village use.

Police services.

Police officers no longer attend any village meetings and no reports are exchanged. Pettistree has experienced a few thefts of garden machinery.

The Village Pub.

"The Greyhound" continues to be an important focus of village life under the management of Stewart and Louise, now assisted by their infant sons Blair and Finlay. Villagers are looking forward to pubs being allowed to open for indoor dining in May. Over the Covid lockdown periods Stuart and Louise have provided a "finish at home" ready cooked take-away meal service that has been extremely popular and a morale boost for many.

Village Communications

All but the most far-flung homes are now getting the benefit of the introduction of fibre broadband. This has made it much easier for people to work from home and communicate with family and other villagers during the Covid restrictions.

At the introduction of the first Covid lockdown on 16th March 2020, Cath Caudwell and Flora Beagley set up the Pettistree Support Network using WhatsApp on mobile phones so that villagers could request or offer help to those restricted to their homes

by age, infirmity or vulnerability This was very successful and meant that Pettistree did not have to rely on help from outside our area. it was disbanded in the Autumn when it was less needed The WhatsApp group now continues as more of an informal chatroom.

Hopkins Homes Development on Pettistree Land

Despite prolonged representations and objections from Pettistree, Wickham Market, and Ufford residents and parish councils, the East Suffolk Planning committee approved the plan unanimously on 26th January 2021. There is no doubt that the building will go ahead but we may be able make it more workable for the new residents by agreeing to move the parish boundary in just that area.

Village Events.

On a happier note we can record the success of the events held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020, and of VJ Day on 15th August 2020. The events had to comply with the Covid restrictions that applied at the time, so the earlier one was a little more extensive (with tea on our own lawns) than the later one (with flags flying and Jim Jarvie playing the pipes in the churchyard).

Pettistree Businesses.

(This list may not be accurate or complete due to Covid changes.)

Anglia Coastal Marquees (Hungarian Hall)
John Balance. Computer expert and utilities agent.
Bridge Classic Cars
Roger Chilvers (Master Thatcher)
Greyhound Public House
Gloveman Supplies
Harambee Training Ltd
Heelis and Lodge (Local Council Services)
Kind Water
Lambert Wood Stanley Consultancy
Loudham Computer training
Pettistree House Boutique Hotel
Presmere Day Nursery
Suffolk Sportscars
Suffolk Scooter – mail order business for Vespa and Lambretta scooters
The Paella and Tapas Company
The Suffolk Plant Store (Plant Pro)
White House Kennels
Local farms (Westrope – Park Farm; Hayward's - Main Road; and Carter's – Grove Farm)
Pettistree Container Storage
Vida Hauss (in what was the Three Tuns pub)

Pettistree People

Our newsletter, "Pettistree People" continues to be a great asset to the community and is widely appreciated. It is funded by the Parish Council without recourse to labour-intensive advertisements. It is still edited very effectively by Mike Watts who is now assisted by Mrs Pat Deliss who encourages new and regular contributors.

Web Site

The Pettistree Village website has had to find a new "host" as the County Council withdrew their facility. The present host is Community Action Suffolk. We have been able to keep the same familiar website and our webmaster is still Chris Garner.

Finance

We are up to date with financial reports and the bank balance is healthy. Our precept (money requested from the District Council in the council tax) to run the Parish Council) has increased by only a minimal amount. No major expenditure apart from the SID system is anticipated. The funds for the SIDs are ready.

Figures for the year ending 31st March 2021:-

Precept was	£2,500
Gross income	£3,301.09
Gross Expenditure	£2,073.08
Bank Balance at 31 st March 2021	£7,814.43

Sizewell C Nuclear Power Generation Plant.

Despite the limited consultation possibilities due to Covid restrictions, the planning process for Sizewell C has progressed steadily despite the many and increasing protests. Representatives of the Parish Council have contributed to the many discussions that have taken place with the County Council, the East Suffolk Council, and other concerned parish councils.

Personal Note.

This has been the last winter for the Hallett family at The Laurels in Pettistree. A combination of factors including our increasing age and the work involved in looking after a fairly large property and land, led us to make the decision to downsize and move to a bungalow at the edge of Wickham Market. By the 29th March we had managed to move out the accumulated household goods, and the "bygones" in the barns, so that the sale was completed and the Davies family moved in. We know that they are already enjoying the usual warm Pettistree welcome.

I shall be well within the regulation three miles of Pettistree so I can offer to stay on the Parish Council for a further year. I do however plan to downsize on personal commitments as well as size of property. I have been a member of the Parish Council since 1985, chairman from 2001 to 2004 and again from 2007 until the present, with a brief gap when Elaine Boardley took the chair for a few months before moving away. (about 16 years as Chairman)

Maggie and I are extremely grateful for all the help we have had getting ready for the move, and for all the cards and other good wishes we have received in our new home.

Our 38 years in Pettistree have been happy ones for us and our family and we are now only just down the road.

Mr Jeffrey Hallett
Chairman, Pettistree Parish Council.
suffolkhorse@compuserve.com