

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

Pettistree Village Hall. 22nd May 2012

The last Annual Parish Meeting was on 24th May 2011.

### **Meetings**

19 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Parish Council Meeting
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	Parish Council Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	Parish Council Meeting
7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Parish Council Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Special Village/ PC Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	Annual Parish Council Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	Parish Council Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2012	Annual Parish Meeting.

### **Parish Council as at 24.5.11**

#### **Membership**

Mr Jeff Hallett	(Chairman)
Mrs Maureen Stollery	(Vice Chairman)
Mrs Elaine Boardley	
Mrs Mary Chilvers	
Dr Peter Hayward	
Mr Terry Rowles	
Mr Mike Watts	

#### **Parish Council Clerk**

Mr Clive Mann  
3 Church Farm Bungalows  
The Street, Eyke  
Woodbridge,  
IP12 2QH

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#### **County & District Councillors**

County Councillor	Michael Bond
District Councillors	Michael Bond Jim Bidwell

### **Changes in membership of the Parish Council.**

Membership was unchanged throughout the year until last week when Mrs Maureen Stollery resigned from the Parish Council after 40 years of service, many of them as Vice Chairman and leader of the planning sub-group. Maureen wishes to spend more time with her increasing number of grandchildren. A suitable village event is being organised to thank her for her

long and diligent service. The vacancy she leaves on the Parish Council will be advertised and a new member will be co-opted in due course. Clive Mann continues as our excellent Parish Clerk.

### **Roads and Pathways**

Another bad winter with considerable and long lasting ice and snow has done further damage to our roads. The sink-hole in the Street has needed less filling but the surface is still irregular in the middle of the road. The Highways Department are keeping an eye on it and refilling as necessary.

An additional two grit/salt bins bought with the financial help of our County Councillor brought our total to five. They make self-help easier and this is essential as we are low on the priority list for salt lorries. We still need volunteers to say they will spread the salt with their own shovel. They will then be put on the 'insured list' of the County Council.

Some moderate sized dead elms adjacent to the 3 Tuns bus shelter will be taken down by the highways department when they can find time.

### **Village Amenities.**

John Barker has continued to keep the village green well mown but we are waiting for BT to remove the un-maintained and unsightly telephone box. We also want the lay-by reinstated to grass.

Hedge-cutting all around the village was again organised by Dr Peter Hayward and carried out very successfully by our local farmer Mr Richard Hayward.

The churchyard and its meadow are tended by Andy Curtis, Dave Cauldwell and Dick Smith with occasional visits from the community service personnel. The new Church car park is in regular use and eases congestion in the nearby roads considerably. The grass is fairly well established growing through the plastic mesh despite the poor growing weather. Plans are going ahead to plant an avenue of full size heritage apple trees in the meadow part of the churchyard as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Woods Nurseries and the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group will be helping and advising.

### **Police services.**

We are still looked after by the same Safer Neighbourhood team who are readily accessible. There have been some burglaries and a few disturbances but our crime rate remains very low.

Our allocated officers are PC Victoria Gilmore and a PCSO Sallyanna Chattenberry at [woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) However, urgent matters or need for assistance still requires use of the 999 call to summon the 24hr Response Unit. 101 is used for less urgent reports.

### **The Village Pubs.**

Karen and Tony Cousins have continued to run The Greyhound Pub and this has been well supported by both village and visitors. The Three Tuns was closed for a short time while new tenants were found but it is now open again under the management of \*\*\*\*\*.

### **Business**

Business in the village continues and the total list is surprisingly long for a small village. I will give the list below as I know it, and will be grateful for any corrections or additions.

### **Pettistree Businesses**

Anglia Sporting Activities (Hungarian Hall)  
Anglia Coastal Marquees  
Chilvers (Master Thatcher)  
Computer services at Tower Yard.  
Green Farm Clinic  
Greyhound Public House  
Harambee Training Ltd  
Heelis and Lodge (Local Council Services)  
Kind Water  
Lambert Wood Stanley Consultancy  
Loudham Computer training  
John Woods Nurseries  
Pettistree House Boutique Hotel  
Presmere Day Nursery  
Suffolk Sportscars  
The Paella and Tapas Company  
Three Tuns Public House.  
Touch of Colour (Scotts Hall)  
White House Kennels  
Local farms (Westrope – Park Farm, Hayward’s - Main Road, and Carter’s – Grove Farm)

### **Community Groups**

The busiest community groups are the Church, the Village Hall and Pettistree Heritage, Neighbourhood Watch and Age Concern are run at a lower intensity as and when needed.

### **Pettistree People and the Pettistree Website**

Our newsletter, Pettistree People continues to be a great asset to the community and is widely appreciated. In a competition by SALC the judges commented “*Good varied content. Pleased to see Parish Council contacts and other contact numbers. Lovely photographs.*” It is funded by the Parish Council and we have further increased our funding this year to match its increased size and colour pages. The website <http://www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk/> is our biggest “shop window” and is a great source of information to those with access to the internet. Our webmaster, Chris Garner, deserves all our thanks

for the unpaid work he does to keep the website absolutely up-to-date (so long as people remember to send him the information!)

### **Planning**

We have continued the process whereby planning requests that are notified to us by Suffolk Coastal are reviewed by the whole council and a council view is then returned by the leader of our planning group.

A major housing development has been proposed by Hopkins Homes on the edge of Wickham Market between Featherbroom Gardens and the Pettistree parish boundary. No actual planning application has been made but we have already had a meeting with the agents of Hopkins Homes, have held a special Parish Council/Village meeting, and are in communication with Wickham Market Parish Council. Pettistree Parish Council is concerned at the prospect of any development in the greenfield area between Wickham Market and Pettistree because it will lead on to gradual infill and loss of the identity of Pettistree as an individual village set in farmland.

### **Finance**

Last year's Audit Commission Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 was submitted and approved. The current return has just been submitted for examination.

Expenditure during 2011/12 was £3,395. This was below the budget of £4,975. ( Budget was £3,925 for 2010/11).

Our income precept from council tax via SCC has remained the same at £2,200 for several years.

Our total funds at 31.03.12 were £5,386 but this includes a sum for restoration of the village green lay-by if necessary.

### **Conclusion**

Our village, including Loudham forms a very attractive and effective community. There is a good mix of residential and business property with little absentee accommodation. Community activities are varied and well supported and there is little crime or antisocial behaviour. The website and the Pettistree People newsletter provide good communication. The formal activities of the Parish Council are supplemented by the enthusiasm of the other village groups to form a well-rounded community.

Jeffrey Hallett, Chairman of Pettistree Parish Council