

# Woodditton Parish Council

Chairman: Robin Sharp. Parish Clerk: John Theobald.

Parish News Letter – Issue No 24

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

## **The Chairman's Report**

This Report will be available on the Woodditton web site ([woodditton.org.uk](http://woodditton.org.uk)) and displayed on the parish notice boards.

The parish council continue to review and comment on the growing number of planning applications, often for “infill” development. While we realise that the planning authority are under government pressure to provide more houses, applicants often try to overdevelop available plots which are sometimes outside the designated development envelopes. The owners of No 59 Ditton Green and the adjacent chicken paddock have attended PC meetings several times this year putting forward their proposals for this property and land. The most recent planning application has been refused. We monitor and respond to all matters of local concern and liaise with appropriate authorities to get remedial action for example clearing highway drains to alleviate flooding and necessary repairs to pot holes.

In August, Anglian Water Authority (AWA) Strategic Pipelines submitted a Planning application for their Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds proposed pipeline. A spur from the pipeline to the Woodditton water tower potentially affects Vicarage Lane, the Woodditton cross roads and Stetchworth Road. The parish council has met with and been in discussion with AWA since January and has received answers to a large number of questions regarding construction of the pipeline and its affect on residents. In June, AWA representatives attended our PC meeting.

Our two defibrillators are managed by Cllr Dudley White and are located at TheThree Blackbirds Ditton Green and the Methodist church hall, Saxon Street. They are regularly checked and serviced and the council has agreed to contribute to the cost of a further unit at the Granary Barns.

A new parish walks map has been procured and will be installed in the vicinity of the Woodditton water tower. This will compliment the one already installed in Saxon Street.

Cllr Katie Craddock procured and managed the placing of Wood chippings to improve the muddy surface of public footpaths off Stetchworth Road and West End, with the help of other local residents and councillors.

The Council supports vital local services and has again made donations to a number of organisations totalling £2650.

Plans for the Jubilee celebrations have resulted in the parish council contributing to the cost of planned events in Woodditton, Saxon Street and Ditton Lodge School.

We carefully monitor the condition of our assets which are insured and checked by outside specialists for safety, in the past year we have commissioned repairs and maintenance for wear and tear and vandalism to play equipment, a bus shelter and a street sign. A new steel gate was installed to facilitate easier access to our Peterhouse Drive sports field. We plan to re-paint the Saxon Street “Gateways”.

# Woodditton Parish Council

We continue to deploy our two Speed signs around the parish, usually moving them monthly and downloading traffic volume and speed data. We have identified speeding hotspots and in conjunction with County Highways have developed a speed reduction project along the Woodditton Road, Newmarket. We have just been informed that our bid for funding under the County LHI scheme for this has been successful. The scheme will be implemented during the current financial year and is supported by Newmarket Town Council and Suffolk County Highways. Thanks are due to Cllrs Dudley White & Robin Sharp for managing this work.

Three semi-mature trees have been planted at the west end of the School Road playing field. One of these is to commemorate Rodney Vincent, a local character who ran the village web site for many years, lived in Ditton Green in the 1930's and wrote a book about the area "A Tanner Will Do". His family paid for the tree and a plaque. A formal dedication event was held for Rodney's tree on 21 May 2021. The trees will provide much needed shade during the summer months. More recently, Cllr Pavel Rybin procured and arranged the planting of 30 mixed species trees in the NE corner of the field, to create a public access copse and commemorate 70 years on the throne of her majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Our phone kiosk libraries continue to be well used and are maintained by Jules Armour (Ditton Green) and Terry Webb (Saxon Street). The Council has a Website [www.woodditton.org.uk](http://www.woodditton.org.uk), which is very well run by our Cllr Terry Webb. The site complies with the new data protection regulations.

As a result of prudent financial management, for the second year running, the parish council has not increased its annual precept bid from the District Council, which remains at £17,500. We currently hold satisfactory financial reserves.

The parish council continues to work closely with the District and County Council from which a representative (Alan Sharp) attends all meetings. We have recently made efforts to work more closely with Newmarket Town Council.

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm, 11 months of the year, missing December, at the Methodist Church Hall in Saxon Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Many thanks to all the Parish Council members for their support and the work they have put in during the past year. Also to our Parish Clerk Mr John Theobald. There remains a vacancy on the council. Anyone qualifying who wishes to be considered for this position should contact the parish clerk or their local councillor. and can speak during the Public Forum.

Finally, please note that you can report any highway faults (pot holes, kerbing, verges, flooding, damaged signs etc.) via the County Highways web site ([Cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://Cambridgeshire.gov.uk) – Report a Highways Fault). It is very easy to use and always results in efficient action with feedback.

Robin Sharp