**OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

This is the report on the work of the Old Hunstanton Parish Council covering the previous 12 months. It is a mandatory element of the Annual Parish Meeting, which is a public meeting. It is not a Parish Council meeting, although the Parish Council has made the arrangements for the meeting and provides a Chairman and Clerk.

I welcome all Parishioners to this meeting, and it is my intention in this report to cover major issues which the Parish Council has dealt with over the past municipal year. It does not cover everything we have done, but those seeking detailed information on all our activities can find it recorded in our monthly Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes, which are available on the Parish Council website.

We have a new Clerk since the last report, Caroline Boyden, who has settled in very quickly and efficiently and brought the PC kicking and screaming into the 21st Century, with the introduction of Internet banking.

Cllr Markillie, who joined the PC just before the last report, has taken on the responsibility of the inspection and maintenance of the Children’s Playground. Under his stewardship he has implemented the recommendations of last year’s ROSPA report and replaced the domed nuts that disappeared during the pandemic.

Over the last few years we have had several traffic and parking issues which we addressed with the Highways Department. I have reported the issues in the Link and Town & Around as well as on the PC website so I will not bore you with the long list we amassed in this report. The Highways Department have a plan which, we hoped would have been implemented in time for the 2022 holiday season. However, because of a number of reasons, the pandemic, staff shortages etc., this has not come to pass but, we anticipate that it will be implemented in time for the 2023 holiday season. Meanwhile, residents living north of the A149 will have seen the cones reappear and redeployed in and around Sea Lane, Waterworks Road, Wodehouse Road etc. This has been done under the direction of the County Council and Norfolk Police. We were berated by both the CC and the police for deploying them in Hamilton Road and were ordered to remove them immediately and threatened with the removal of **all** the cones if we didn’t comply.

The Village Hall has continued to grow and they have a varied events calendar including, Pilates, Zumba and Kettlercise with Suzie Povey, Bridge with Hunstanton Bridge Club and Sewing classes with Angela Pickering. There have been a number of one-off events, for example, Children’s Birthday parties, a monthly meeting of the U3a and a presentation by the Norfolk Coastal Partnership regarding ongoing and planned projects that have a bearing on Old Hunstanton Parish and neighbouring parishes. One of the requests from OHPC is for the expansion of the AONB to include the whole of the parish instead of the existing arrangement, to the west of Waterworks Road and encompassing the Hall and its environs. This has been ongoing since 2007 when Old Hunstanton split from Hunstanton and became a parish in its own right.

There is a proposal for an observatory to be built on land in Hunstanton adjoining Old Hunstanton. The site has been identified on the mini golf course where it meets Kelsey Close. Cllr Markillie is our liaison with the proposers, but the project is in its infancy and planning permission has not yet been applied for. We will keep you updated through the OHPC website.

Dark Skies is another project gaining ground and there was a presentation in the village hall recently attended by representatives from the parish councils that make up the Saxon Shore Forum. It was warmly received, pointing out the benefits ecologically and economically to the community.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been delayed because of the upheaval at the planning department of the BCKLWN. Staffing has been hit by the departure of a number of personnel and the incoming personnel have differing views on what should be in a Neighbourhood Plan and what should not. What was agreed by previous incumbents of the planning department is not the view of the new incumbents. We have amended and resubmitted the NP before, hopefully, it is sent out to the residents for consultation later this year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Parish Councillors who have generously given of their time and expertise over the last 12 months. It has been a hard time for us all in the village so a thank you to all residents for their forbearance and understanding. It was heartening to see the community come together during the pandemic and the thoughtfulness of everyone for their neighbours and the village.

David McLeod

Chairman OHPC