

East Haddon Chari Report Annual Meeting of the Parish 2023

The last year has seen us celebrating the late Queens platinum jubilee and then mourning her passing.

The parish council purchased a cedar of Lebanon tree to commemorate the jubilee. It is planted in the church grounds. A plaque will eventually be placed recording the event.

The village society with other villagers organised the jubilee celebrations and used the profit to plant daffodils at all 4 entrances to the village.

Recently we celebrated the coronation of King Charles. Again, the village society organised a celebration on the Sunday.

Councillors have attended meetings of village organisations on which they represent the PC.

We have scrutinised planning applications passing on relevant comments to WNC.

The bus shelter has been refurbished.

New Christmas lights were purchased to illuminate the tree in the church grounds.

Speeding continues to be an issue. Councillors met with a representative from highways to discuss options to slow traffic down on Tilbury Road. A chicane was discussed but this proved unworkable.

The PC will be leading on a speedwatch campaign at the end of July through to mid-August. This should provide information as to where most incidents occur, volunteers will be needed to make this successful.

We allocated grants to the playing fields, primary school, the village society and the youth club. These had to be limited as requests exceeded our allocated budget.

We would appreciate suggestions from Parishioners as to further improvements the PC could consider. Recent suggestions include installing a dog bin at the footpath in Tilbury Road, and a barrier to prevent visitors to the village driving up the lane to the cemetery mistaking it for Mill Lane.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Councillors and especially our Clerk for all their hard work over the past year. Though not a councillor, I would also like to thank Val Longley for all her organisation of the two afore mentioned village events.

CLlr M Wells
May 2023

Thanks
M Wells

East Haddon Parish Clerk
East Haddon Parish Council
100, 101 The Rectory
East Haddon
Leicestershire
LE12 7JH

For more information
contact the Clerk

EAST HADDON PLAYING FIELD REPORT 2023

Play equipment – pressure washed summer 2022. Safety checks continue to be done annually. Train awaiting repair

Tennis - repainted June 2022 and new net fitted. We average about 12 families who subscribe annually. The court has funded itself since it was built in 1993.

Table tennis table - we have generously been offered the funds from a kind resident of EH to buy an all weather table tennis table to install on the playing field. This will be in situ in time for the summer holidays

Maintenance - car park rails replaced. Broken paving slabs replaced. New water tanks and heating system for the showers installed April 2023 which will be vastly more efficient from the old ones. This was partially funded by West Northants Council.

Some outside decorating on windows is needed and will be actioned this year.

Perimeter fencing has been repaired - just a couple of posts needed to finish off this task

Notice board - being kindly repaired by Martin Yates

Cricket - now called Haddon CC. Incorporating West Haddon and Guilsborough clubs. They continue to enjoy the facilities we can offer them.

Fund Raising

Bonfire night - despite increased insurance cost and a large increase in the actual cost for the firework display we continue to put on this community event

200 Club - Collecting the majority of subs online

The Council will be investing up to £215,000 in the year ahead on services. This continues the funding allocated for the current year.

West Northants Unitary Report for Long Buckby Ward

It has been a pleasure for the three of us to continue working as Ward Councillors for the Long Buckby Ward in the new West Northamptonshire Council. During this civic year we have had numerous successes in solving issues highlighted to us including planning which seems to generate most problems, Highway issues and signposting services for those in need. We have also finished distributing nearly £7,500 in Covid support grants to local community groups to aid with their recovery from the pandemic.

Despite the pressures of high inflation during the last year, the Council has worked hard to balance the books and has set a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 of £383.5m (excluding grant funded schools spending of £443.7m). The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, well below current inflation rates and in line with the Government's allowance, crucially generating extra funding of around £12m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care. This represents an average increase on a Band D property of £80.50 a year, the equivalent of £1.55 a week.

Last year we were asked to comment on the Boundary review for the current 93 Wards in WNC. The proposal was for this to be reduced to 77 as advised by the Commission and input was sought from all parties including Parish Councils. A month ago, we received the result of this consultation in draft form which in fact was for 76 new Wards made up of one, two and three Member Wards. This proposal is out for further comments up until 15th May. As far as the Long Buckby Ward is concerned the Ward would lose essentially West Haddon and Flore but gain some to the East and become a two-member ward.

The new highways contract commenced last summer after being awarded to Kier. This winter has seen adverse weather conditions which has meant that nationally the number of potholes has risen dramatically and in our Ward this is a major issue. As part of next years budget a further £1m has been assigned for potholes plus £1.6m from Government announced in their budget. We are investing in new plant to ensure repairs are more effective in the future and we would remind everybody to please report any defects via 'Fix my Street'.

Last year we were all consulted on the Spatial plan for the District and initial output was expected last Summer. Due to overwhelming number of responses this has been delayed and also the timeline has been reduced to 2035 to ensure the document is fit for purpose. This plan will become the Local Plan for the whole of WNC and the housing requirement is dramatically reduced for the new time period.

The Council will be investing up to £215,000 in the year ahead towards bus services. This continues the funding allocated for the current year, while the

Council shapes a new bus strategy and considers the most viable options for supporting and delivering the services in the future.

The new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) gives our Council the ability to ensure that the public can use and enjoy these public spaces and aims to help to make West Northamptonshire a better and safer place to live and work. It will last for a period of three years and means dog owners could be fined £100 if they fail to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it properly or carry the means to pick up after their dog. It also prevents their dogs from entering public places from which dogs are excluded.

A pilot scheme which helps landowners clear and prevent fly-tipping has been extended for another 12 months in West Northamptonshire. As town and parish councils will be aware, when fly-tipping takes place on public land, the taxpayer pays for the removal and disposal of the waste. However, if a fly-tip occurs on private land, the responsibility for the clean-up and removal falls with the landowner. Last year our Council worked on a scheme whereby private landowners could apply for a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in establishing prevention measures which will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future.

The introduction of voter identification has been moved from December 2022 to January 2023. This requires voters to present some form of photo ID at polling stations in order to receive their ballot paper. Voter Card application service is expected to go live in January 2023 and will be first used in any elections from May 2023.

Finally, we would all like to thank all Parish Council members and other community volunteers for their ongoing commitment to our wonderful villages. Without this support our job would be immeasurably more difficult. As already said we are open to any input and as elected representatives we will strive to deliver solutions when possible.

Cllr Phil Bignell 07969 919779

Cllr Daniel Lister 07878 798726

Cllr Charles Morton 07774 419028