

2022/23 Chairman's Report – 16 May 2023

This is a high-level summary of the Council's activities and events over the past year, our first Covid restriction free year since early 2020.

From a Parish Council perspective, it has been a quiet year with not much going on apart from routine Parish business and presenting a united front in relation to the ongoing Hale Solar Farm application and more recently, the lodging of a further application for a new solar farm to the north-east of Hulcott.

Routine Business

Parish Council meetings continue to be held in the nave of our All Saints Church. Thank you again to Pam Masini for facilitating this and for switching the heating on when required.

Councillors & Parishioners

Amanda Massingham joined us as our new Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. Amanda has significant Parish Council experience and is a welcome addition to our team

There have been no further changes in Parish Council personnel.

Street Party

The Council hosted a street party on Sunday 7 May to celebrate the King's Coronation and by all accounts, it was a great success with most of the residents attending.

A big thank you again to all who joined us, to all who contributed in many different ways, and especially to Councillor Deborah Roberts for cracking the whip keeping the organising committee members on their toes.

Infrastructure & Environment

The significant drainage works were completed on time and the results are promising so far, with no flooding despite a very wet winter and early spring.

Thank you to John Flanigan for making good the roadside damage caused by heavy farm equipment accessing the entrance to the fields to the south of Greenacres. John also flattened out the mounds of soil dumped on the verge opposite the south access to Greenacres.

Planning Applications

Apart from an insignificant reduction in scale to the Hale Solar Farm to the north-east of the village and a new application for a further solar farm to the north-east of Hulcott, there were no significant planning applications.

Our position remains one of astonishment and dismay at the scale of both proposals which remain disproportionate in relation to the immediate environment and impact on our community and these aspects, along with other significant objections, remains the basis for the Council's objections.

For the record, and to head off allegations of *nimbysism*, the Council fully supports the concept and implementation of renewable energy, but we believe that any renewable infrastructure initiative/s should be proportionate in terms of scale and impact on surrounding communities.

Village Green

The grass cutting with Lynch Gardening Services was renewed as they continue to deliver good value for money. The new agreement includes grass cutting on the two traffic "islands" to the north of the Green.

Remedial tree works were successfully carried out in August last year; thank you again to Ian Pleeth for coordinating the works.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Feedback from our Neighbourhood Policing Team confirms that Hulcott continues to be a largely crime free area with burglaries in our parish remaining well below pre and post-pandemic levels in and around Aylesbury.

Internal Audit

A successful audit was carried out for the year 2021/2022 where all Parish Council processes and finances were independently reviewed. This enabled the Parish Council to declare a Certificate of Exemption with our external auditor, Melanie Rose.

Conclusion

A quiet year during which a semblance of normality prevailed after all remaining covid related restrictions were lifted.

Thank you again to all parishioners for your ongoing support and contribution in making Hulcott the wonderful place it is.