

## **Chairman's Report 2013**

I always like to think that I am reasonably well organised and as a rule to ensure that I can attend Parish Council Meetings. By my absence this evening you will realise that my holiday plans failed to take into account the Annual Meeting and I do apologise for not being able to attend this evening.

There have been many notable achievements during the year, of which the Parish Council can be proud of their organisation and successful outcome.

Despite the poor weather the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was successfully celebrated by the village with a range of events and activities. It was a real team effort, with a variety of organisations organising specific events to ensure that there was something for everyone. The final part of the commemorative activities was the tree and bench, which have been successfully planted and installed and will remain a lasting memento of our celebrations.

The Hastoe Housing Scheme followed a thorough consultation process resulting in a significant number of changes to the development but ultimately improving the impact of the scheme for local residents. Planning has now been granted and construction works will commence any day. This time next year, we hope that the houses will be occupied by locals with village links.

Although the Village website was up and running, during the year its development has continued, including moving to the "One Suffolk Platform". The next twelve months should see further development to ensure the website benefits all members of the community.

The colour printing of the Barton Miller, including the Parish Council back page to publicise our website, has improved an emotive subject. I personally believe this is a positive move by the Council but remain 'open minded' to review the benefits in the coming year. For this type of subject, the easy option of "doing nothing" can lead to the Parish Council sitting on its laurels and not moving forward for the benefit of the village.

The continued programme of street light replacement has led to a selection of new lights in the village which has been handled smoothly by Councillor Boura.

I would like to thank the Clerk for all his efforts and also the various Councillors who have undertaken additional roles or duties.

There are a number of additional events which come to fruition in the coming year, including the duelling of the A11, drainage to the car park, over flow parking onto the village green and additional street lights.

I am happy to stand for a third year as chairman when many of these projects should progress. One of my objectives for the coming year is to try and speed up some of the Parish Council functions to ensure that they do not run on from one meeting to another with minimal progress.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.