

**Wortwell Annual Parish Meeting – 09<sup>th</sup> May 22**  
**Wortwell Parish Council – Chairman's Report**

2021/22 proved to be another unprecedented year, at the start of the year our lives were still heavily restricted by Covid restrictions preventing us from carrying on with our normal lives.

Whilst we have seen a relaxation of the restrictions allowing us to resume our normal interests and activities the office of National Statistics reports a significant increase in reported infection rates, however data available indicates that in our region we are starting to see a fall in reported cases.

It is therefore important that we all remain vigilant in order to reduce infection rates still further.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 we were saddened to learn of the untimely death of Sir David Amess, following a frenzied knife attack at his surgery in Southend. Wortwell Parish Council held a two minute silence in memory at our regular monthly meeting.

Following the refusal of planning applications put forward to address the housing shortage the Parish Council has held considerable negotiations with the South Norfolk Planning department, and we now have an agreement in principal that the Planning department will support the PCs proposals, with regards to acceptable development.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February the country witnessed Russia's war of aggression on the Ukraine, our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are suffering and have lost their lives, and I am sure Wortwell would support any international aid initiatives in support of the victims.

Allison Copeman on behalf of Wortwell Parish Council has revised and updated the village community emergency plan; this will be signed off in the parish meeting to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> June. It is hoped that we can all be better prepared in the event of adverse weather or unplanned emergencies. I would like to thank Allison for the work involved in compiling this document.

Wortwell Parish Council continues to monitor speeding through the village, with data being downloaded from the SAM 2 machine on a regular basis, this follows renewed reports from parishioners regarding recent alleged offenders.

Further adverse data has been passed to the police for the necessary action, with a request for a further speed trap to be set up.

We thank the Local Neighborhood team for their continued support in keeping our village safe.

I will further propose that we look at joining the 20s plenty initiative in the village in order to address speeds further, this will be a discussion point on the agenda going forward.

The Parish Council have reviewed our precept application this year, and following advice from our external auditor reduced our reserves, these initiatives will further fund village improvements that have been driven by demands received following our village consultation.

We have achieved a great deal and fulfilled a number of requests previously and continue to respond to further requests.

We have been asked to and responded to village's requests to:

Address the dog fouling issues around the village.

Provided entertainment in the village hall (i.e. bingo & quiz nights)

Provide a bus shelter to prevent villagers waiting in the cold

Address speeding and fund the purchase of a SAM 2 Machine

Provide additional seating for those who are less mobile, this is ongoing and will be further addressed this year.

Maintain the village play equipment and provide additional facilities for older children and adults, this is ongoing.

Maintain street lighting and reduce energy costs, this prompted the replacement of all lamps to LEDs and has now been completed.

Provided a defibrillator, this was achieved by fundraising initiated by Chris and Liz Shaw of the Wortwell Bell, and is now maintained by the Parish Council.

On a lighter note we look forward to celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the country.

This will be held over an extended bank holiday weekend on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

The PC and the events committee have formed a working group to coordinate events, and we will be part of the County Beacon lighting initiatives, along with other planned events over the weekend.

Last year Wortwell PC said farewell to our County Councilor Mrs Margaret Stone, and we are pleased to welcome Mr Barry Stone as our new County Councillor, We all look forward to working with Barry and thank you for continued support.

I would like to thank Jeremy Savage our District Councilor for the support he has given us throughout the year.

Most importantly I would like to extend a big thank you to the Parish Councillors for all their support and hard work throughout the year.

Finally I would like to Thank Lua Leggett our Parish Clerk in her absence for all the hard work and commitment that she has shown the village, who without, I don't believe we would have such a cohesive team.

Clive Aylett

Wortwell Parish Council Chairman