

Old Catton Parish Council

The Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS

Clerk of the Council: Ms Sarah Vincent

www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Tel: 01603 423880

Email: clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Annual Report 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

Welcome to this year's Annual Report from your Parish Council.

Everyone has been, and to some extent still are, affected by Covid-19 and Coronavirus restrictions of the past year. As we started 2020, no one could have predicted the Government announcement of lockdown on 22nd March 2020, the months of uncertainty, restrictions and impact on our families the first, second and third lockdowns would have. As a community our Parish stepped up to the mark; neighbours supported each other, strangers volunteered assistance to those in need, facemasks and NHS washbags were made, food pantries popped up around the village, food parcels were delivered, care and companionship (through windowpanes or remote technology) was offered. No one was left alone and no one was forgotten. As a resident of Old Catton I am immeasurably proud to be part of this caring community. I do hope this community spirit continues.

As a Parish Council it been a challenging year. Council Member's role, and that of our staff, changed significantly during this year with common aims and interests for the Parish having to be modified. First lockdown saw the closure of the Recreation Ground, Council buildings, all playgrounds and the suspension of Council meetings. Time was spent carrying out essential maintenance to play and gym equipment, Council grounds and maintaining the burial grounds. The Council Office, having delivered "are you isolating" leaflets to all households, took up a new role to support our isolators; helping coordinate volunteers with the Volunteer Co-ordinator at Catton Watch, sourcing Covid-19 funding, providing PPE, carrying out shopping/prescription and providing a point of contact for those who needed it. Reopening in July, coupled with the glorious weather, brought new footfall to the Recreation Ground in the form of exercise classes on the tennis courts, the return of cricket and football and new ways to use the outside space for our different youth organisations. Second and third lockdown have had less impact – playgrounds remain open, Council staff continue maintaining the Parish green spaces, Council meetings resumed but have been held remotely and Office staff have ensured all Council legislative requirements and functions have been met (albeit within a slightly different timeframe).

Sadly we say farewell to Mr Robin Tovell and thank him for his continued contribution to the Council and community in which we serve. Following the Annual Parish Council meeting we are pleased to welcome Mr Barry Leggett as our new Member to the Parish Council. As a former Councillor Barry has many years' experience contributing to our Parish and I am confident he will be a valuable asset to the Parish Council.

We also mark the sad passing of Councillor Barry Palmer. Barry was one of the longest standing members of the Parish Council (practically part of the furniture). He made a significant contribution to Old Catton through the Parish Council as well as through the various clubs and societies he was member of and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

There has been some restructuring of Council Grounds Staff with Mr Ross Hopwood taking the position of Head Groundsman and we welcome Mr Chris Gowing to our new Groundsman working alongside Mr Colin Franklin.

Since the last Annual Report and Annual Parish Meeting, the Repton Avenue development (now known as Sewell Meadow) has commenced. This is the largest development in Old Catton and, as with previous development in Old Catton, the Parish will receive substantial S106 and CIL (community infrastructure funds) monies to be used to the benefit of the residents. Covid-19 restrictions have meant that previous discussions on usage of CIL for a possible new community centre are yet to resume. Funds have been used to purchase equipment; you may have seen the Council van parked around the village while Ground Staff carry out works to verges, green spaces, hedges. S106 is allocated to specific areas such as allotments, formal play, sports and green infrastructure. Funds have been used for additional gym equipment and maintenance to the bowling green. Future projects include installing wind shelter at the allotments and improvements to the car park and the boundaries at the Recreation Ground. More funds remain available and the Parish Council welcomes suggestions from the public for equipment and infrastructure to improve your facilities.

Covid-19 restrictions have stopped all face-to-face community engagement during this year but they have not reduced the community spirit. We had hoped to celebrate the VE 75th Anniversary in May with a tea party; later restrictions prevented this from being rearranged. It is very much hoped that a “party” will be able to take place next year that incorporates a celebration and thanks to all those volunteers who supported isolators during the last year. Watch out for later announcements. The Parish Council was proud to support the Royal British Legion with the very successful Poppy Trail and look forward to supporting the RBL 100th anniversary in May.

Your Council are keen to ensure that all residents are able to express their views and concerns, via the Council Office in a timely fashion and without prejudice. Raising public awareness of your Councillors, Council Staff and important issues through public engagement is of high importance to the Council.

The big announcement for this year is that the Parish Council, with the support of Broadland District Council, are now the proud owners of approximately 50 acres of Catton Park. We are very pleased to add this area to the public spaces that the Council owns for the continued use of the local and wider community. The Parish Council will continue with the Aims and Objects of the Park – to manage and protect the Park in a way that is recognised as high quality, enhancing the natural landscape and wildlife whilst promoting enjoyment for the local community and visitors, and provide opportunities and facilities for education and recreation in a safe and attractive environment, encouraging greater understanding of the heritage and natural assets of Catton Park.

Other projects that the Parish Council has undertaken during this year also include the installation of a trod at the grassland at Priors Drive through the Parish Partnership scheme and supported by Norfolk County Councillor Karen Vincent.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and the Council staff for their continued support, advice and hard work and look forward to their proactive contributions for the next year on behalf of the village and the Council.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman

Parish Council Information

Old Catton covers an area of 233 hectares and has a population of approximately 6,108 residents and an electorate of 4,934.

Full Council meetings, which include consideration of planning applications, are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. During the pandemic these have been held by virtual means, subject to lockdown requirements.

Agendas can be viewed on the Parish Council website, via social media or on the various noticeboards around the village.

You are able to visit the Council office for help and advice from the Clerk and her staff on local matters, report highways matters, or make requests to view Council records.

Office Address:	The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS
Telephone:	01603 423880
Email:	clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk
Website:	www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk
Office Hours:	Monday – Friday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council consists of 13 elected members who serve for a term of 4 years. The last Parish Council election took place in May 2019. Councillor details are as follows:

Mr J Amis	86 Oak Lane, NR6 7DD	01603 960688
Mrs A Chandler	60 Church Road, Swainsthorpe, NR14 8PR	01508 470388
Mr G Crouch	202 Spixworth Road, NR6 7EQ	01603 404520
Ms Y Gowers	86 Oak Lane, NR6 7DD	01603 960688
Mr B Honess	1 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND	01603 419943
Mr D King	72 Mountbatten Drive, NR6 7PP	07858 626772
Mr B Leggett	30 Garrick Green, NR6 7AL	01603 429986
Mr B Sabberton-Coe	62 Garrick Green, NR6 7AN	01603 483976
Mr G Tingle	36 Mousehold Lane, NR6 8HA	01603 404472
Mr M Vincent	4 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND	01603 485460
Mr R Tovell	136 Proctor Road, NR6 7PH	01603 414206
Mr S Walker	188 Spixworth Road, NR6 7EQ	07807 516708
Miss P Wilkin	Church Barn, Rackheath, NR13 6QT	01603 781050

The Council employs 6 members of staff: -

Ms Sarah Vincent	Parish Clerk
Mrs Gail Howes	Administration Officer
Mr Ross Hopwood	Head Groundsman
Mr Colin Franklin	Groundsman
Mr Chris Gowing	Groundsman
Mrs Maureen Wilkin	Caretaker

What does the Parish Council do?

The Council's main activities are as follows: -

1. The management and maintenance of:
 - Church Street Pavilion and Recreation Ground
 - Lavaré Park
 - War Memorial
 - Churchyard at St Margarets Church
 - Old Catton Cemetery
 - Woodham Leas
 - Street furniture such as bus shelters, noticeboards and bins
 - Grass cutting of grass verges throughout the Parish on behalf of Norfolk County Council
 - Hedge cutting
2. Debates local planning applications and passes its comments to Broadland District Council to aid their decision-making process.
3. Liaise with both the County and District Councils to maintain and improve their standards of service.
4. Liaise with Norfolk Constabulary on issues of concern from residents.
5. Support the local youth project.