

Chairman's Report for Somersham Parish Council's Annual General Meeting **Wednesday 1st May 2024**

I am pleased to present the Chairman's Report for Somersham Parish Council's Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024.

The past year has been filled with various challenges, successes and learning opportunities for the Council and I'm proud to have led the team through this journey. I am grateful for the commitment, support, and hard work of our Councillors, our Parish Clerk and volunteers.

This past year, the Parish Council has supported several key initiatives and achievements:

- The Play Equipment Project was successfully completed, with £7,747.20 allocated from Parish Council funds towards maintenance of the remaining play equipment. The project received substantial funding from Mid Suffolk District Council's CIL funds and has been well-received by the community.
- The Parish Council contributed £9,962.00 towards the resurfacing of the Community Shop car park, helping to improve the facility for residents.
- The Council contributed £3,500.00 to Somersham Primary School for their Outside Learning Area, to enable experiential learning outside the classroom setting.
- The Council allocated £600.00 to support the local Youth Club, recognising the important role it plays in providing activities and resources for the village's young people.
- In response to the devastating flooding experienced by residents, the Council has been actively engaging with the Environment Agency and other authorities to seek solutions and support for affected households. An Emergency Plan is being developed to improve the village's preparedness for future incidents.

The Parish Council has managed its finances prudently throughout the year, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and responsibly. We have maintained a healthy financial position, with a balanced budget and sufficient reserves to cover any unforeseen expenses. Our financial management have allowed us to invest in important community projects whilst freezing the Precept for 2024-25.

We recognise that there are ongoing challenges that require our attention and we are committed to addressing them in the coming year. The flooding issue is a top priority and we will continue to work with partners to find long-term solutions. Improving community facilities, such as the Pavilion and supporting local groups will also be areas of focus.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Councillors, our Parish Clerk, volunteers and residents who have supported Somersham Village and the Parish Council throughout the year. Your dedication, hard work and passion have helped to make Somersham a great place to live.

We look forward to working together in the coming year as we continue to build a strong, resilient and sustainable community for all.

Many thanks,

Thomas Hallatt
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