**GRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2022**

After moving into the village in 2017, I have ‘held the chair’ since May 2021. I’m sure you will agree that the last 2 years have, along with its challenges, highlighted to us all how appreciative we are of our village, its surroundings and above all the people that make Gresham what it is. It is wonderful to see the children return to school, events return to the churches and the village hall and while still of course being cautious, we are now free to mingle.

It has been a year of learning for me to begin to follow in the footsteps of the continued hard work of our previous chair, Cllr. Geoffrey Wright. An enormous thank you to Geoffrey for his hard work and dedication to the parish including the arranging of the clearing and cutting of our rights of way that make such a difference for parents, dog walkers and the community as a whole.

Updates this year:

Highways: Cllr Ilsley and I met with our Ward District councillor Eric Vardy and the North Norfolk District Council Highways Engineer to discuss improvements required to the highways in the village. This included the continued flooding at the bridge in Lower Gresham, the need to preserve the eroding bank outside All Saints Church and the refreshing of white road markings. Highways have also agreed to assess traffic calming options through the village.

Pavilion: The Pavilion and its surrounding area has started to be refurbished. The picnic area has been reformed with bark flooring laid and new larger picnic benches purchased. Quotes have been requested for repairs to the roof and walls of the Pavilion and we look forward to seeing the work being carried out in the near future. The area by the shed has been cleared and in the coming weeks, the doors to the brick shed will be replaced.

Play area: members of the Parish Council continue to check the play area weekly for any safety issues arising and for the organisation of subsequent repairs.

Many thanks to Cllr Ilsley for the organisation, co-ordination and carrying out of works and repairs to The Pavilion, picnic area and play area.

Village Park: While we were sorry to see the football club depart for pastures new, this has presented us with a great opportunity and a blank canvas to focus on how we want the village park to be used for generations to come. Therefore, while we have purchased some new goal posts we have paused in placing them for the time being until further plans for the park are confirmed. We are keen for the park to be developed in such a way that promotes wellbeing, education, the environment and community involvement. We will soon be consulting with the residents of the parish, the Village Hall Association, the Church and the school to progress a vision for future uses of the park which is such a great asset to our community – all ideas, suggestions and contributions will be very welcome.

Other news:

Jubilee celebrations: 2022 is a special year with the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. To celebrate, Cllrs Jacobs & Arnold have organised a village community picnic event at the Village Hall on 4th June. With the easing of Covid restrictions, I’m sure for many this will be a welcome opportunity for friends and families to come together to celebrate.

-A new notice board has been installed in Upper Gresham. An additional new notice board is soon to be installed in Lower Gresham.

-The village has previously had a defibrillator installed at the village hall. October saw a refresher training session for use of the defibrillator – while we hope to never to have to use this, this is an invaluable asset for the village.

And finally, many thanks to Sarah Hayden, Parish Clerk, for her continued substantial contribution and hard work keeping the administration of the parish on track which is so essential in enabling us to progress development for the parish.