Chairman’s Report May 2024

Following last May's elections, the parish council had seven councillors, two short of the requisite number. Fortunately, two people were found who were co-opted, which meant that for the first time for a while, we had a full complement of parish councillors. The two were, Sally Baalham and Steve Godden.

The highlight of the year has been the creation and erection in Victoria Field of the village sign. After consultation with parishioners, a design was created and the design was made by the local blacksmiths, Jacob and Sons.  To enhance the site the intention is to build a frame around the base made of wooden sleepers into which bulbs will be planted. A village sign is something that Nacton has lacked, despite previous attempts.

The hedge around the field has been damaged both by animals and people. A new temporary fence has been erected and new plants will be planted in the autumn to fireplace those that have died over the last two years.

It has been agreed to replace the field gate at the entrance as this is rotten at the top with a new wooden one.

An information board about both Victoria Field and Pauper's Woos is in the final stages of preparation and should be in place towards the end of this year. This board will give the story of how the land was given to the parish council, both in the 1800s as well as other interesting facts and figures obtained through the Suffolk Record Office.

Other small projects have been completed during the year including a new dog bin opposite the entrance to Home Farm. After much discussion with the local council has agreed that the parish council will not be charged for the emptying of the bin. The council has also replaced two of the grit bins and their trowels, as the previous were badly damaged and in one case with no lid.

For November 11th the Parish Council invited both schools to send some pupils and to lay a wreath during the act of remembrance at 11.00. The number of people who attend this solemn ceremony continues to increase each year.

The council will be updating both its Emergency Plan and its Welcome to Nacton document over the coming months. Both of these will be available on our website.

As ever, I am extremely grateful to my fellow councillors for all that they have undertaken during the last 12 months. I am also grateful to our new tree warden who has already replaced a dead tree in Victoria Field and completed some good work with the semi-circular path in Paupers Wood. I am also grateful to our two district councillors and our county councillor, who attend many of our meetings, give helpful advice and updates and money.

The parish council is extremely lucky to have a very efficient and organised clerk and a hard-working and very effective financial officer. The council works more effectively due to their diligence.