**DC Report September 2022 – Cllr Margaret Maybury**

**The death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022 led immediately to a period of National Mourning whereby all District Council meetings and events were cancelled as a mark of respect. Most political parties also suspended activities as a mark of respect too.**

**I add my condolences to the Royal Family on the loss of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Their loss is hard to understand as they grieve but also have to undertake duties and reassure the country of their continued loyalty to not only this country but the commonwealth and the rest of the world too.**

**I am sure the parish were aware of my address/email to the Ward on the day following our Monarch’s death as I requested all parish councils and clergy to cascade the message.**

**Local News:**

**Sudbury:** The planning application for Belle Vue House and part of the original park including the old swimming pool was refused on a majority decision. The comments, following this refusal by the leader of the council, within social media was unfortunate and I understand is being followed upby representation to the Monitoring Officer.

**Long Melford and Lavenham** GP Surgery has been placed into special measures by the CQC following an inspection which classed the practise as inadequate in four out of five aspects of the CQC inspection. I wrote to all parishes an asked for a message to be cascaded which gave basic details of what had happened and also stated the reassurance that the CQC will be re-inspecting in six months and that the Integrated Care Board (the new name of the CCG, which looks after the medical services within the area) are supporting the practise to raise their standards with ICB staff on the premises.

**Great Waldingfield** Parish Council opened the village hall for the Queen’s funeral last Monday which I attended. My thanks go to the parish council for this initiative and their hospitality.

**Great Waldingfield** held another successful Horticultural Show.

**Great Waldingfield** village hall has applied for a CIL bid to extend their car parking facilities at the hall.

**Little Waldingfield** will be holding a “pop-up pub” on Friday 30th September from 6.30pm until 10.30pm. This is a great occasion to have a drink with the locals and socialise – I hope to see some of you there. The “pop-up pub” project has been running via the Playing Field committee whilst the local public house is being refurbished.

**Little Waldingfield** Playing Field Committee has also applied for a grant for adult training equipment to add to their children’s play area and hopefully once the grant is approved the equipment will be open for all local residents including those from the Ward and surrounding area.

**Lavenham** still has severe issues with the new public toilets within the village. Those at the Church Street car park are due to be repaired during the coming few weeks. Those at Prentice Street car park are permanently closed following an inspection by a BDC surveyor who disagreed with the disabled facilities at the site. Incidentally there is a challenge as to what the car park next to the Cock Inn is called. This led to an online discussion which (on Friday 23rd September) had been viewed forty thousand (yes, really 40,000) times!

**Chilton** parish council are currently looking at planning for the future via a community building within Chilton Woods. Within the S106 agreement for Chilton Woods £1.1m has been allocated for this new building. Planning such as this needs careful investigation. The parish council are visiting other local community/village hall buildings and interviewing architects for the project.

**Cockfield:** The local celebratory of the parish, Norman Gregory, sadly died. At over one hundred years of age and a survivor of a Second World War POW camp plus a recipient of the French Legion of Honour decoration was a much loved, witty and personable character. I thoroughly enjoyed talking with him and he always called me, “young lady” to which I was much flattered. I will miss him but not as much, I am sure, as those who had known and loved him over so many more years than I had. A figure on a bicycle until his one hundredth birthday; a twinkle in his eye; a quick subtle joke; a comment made which showed wisdom as well as wit; he was a true gentleman of honour and well deserving of his Legion of Honour. RIP Norman.

**Lastly Great Waldingfield:** It is difficult not to end this report with the tragic news of two deaths in Great Waldingfield. The murder of both Jullio and Louise Nash at Heath Estate is a tragic reminder for us all that life is so precious. The police investigations are on-going therefore I will not be making any further comment. I just add, the support of the village, the Rector and the parish council has been second to none to both other residents of the parish as well as the family themselves.

Margaret Maybury 26th September 2022