# Chair’s Report for APM 7 April 2025

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting is our chance to come together as a community and share our successes and challenges.

I’d like to start by explaining a little bit about the Parish Council, who we are and what we do. We are a statutory body with 11 seats and are responsible for some of the allotments, play areas, open spaces as well as benches and bins. We work with the District and County Council and other external bodies to help improve the facilities available to you, our parishioners. As a Parish Council we have a wide range of functions we can deliver if there is a wide need, and we have the resources available. We cannot do this without the support of our residents.

As I mentioned, we have 11 seats on the Parish Council with only 4 seats being filled (you may want to point out the councillors). The lack of councillors means that we deliver parishioners needs slower than we would prefer. We have certain legal obligations that we must abide by and these take our priority.

Over the past 12 months, we have given over £2k in grants to the football club and MEG, renewed the lease with Blakey’s Bus Café, contributed to repairs to the doctors’/school car park, repaired play equipment at Meadows and Village Hall and worked with South Norfolk Council to produce a feasibility study for the village hall and Mulberry and Orchard Parks. Many thanks to those of you who contributed your views to the study.

For 2025/26, we are hoping to deliver a pump track and additional play equipment at The Meadows. We would also like to be in a position where we can begin to improve the facilities offered on the Village Hall and Orchard Park sites but before we can move forward with this, we need to resolve the ownership dispute with the Village Hall Management Committee. We have had meetings with some of the trustees and are looking forward to agreeing another meeting date soon.

As a result of your feedback, we are in contact with Norfolk County Council about the traffic issues experienced around The Common. This is an area which Norfolk County Council are responsible for, but the Parish Council is taking your views and concerns to them to discuss what action can be taken.

We ask that you continue to contact us about the issues that are important to you as it is this information that helps form some of our decision making.

We also ask that you consider taking one of the 7 seats we currently have available around the table. When you become a parish councillor you will get the opportunity to help shape the future of the council and our parish. This is a flexible voluntary role and if you would like to find out more please come to speak to one of us at the end or contact Lorraine, our clerk.

I’d like to finish by thanking all the councillors, parish and district, and our clerk for their continued support and dedication to driving the parish council forward.