

## REPORT FROM FRAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

The Council started the year again operating with a rotating Chair, although since August I have remained in post as Chair.

During the course of the year we've had a couple of minor changes. Claire Macaulay stepped down from the Council last September, whilst Ian Seager stepped down from the Council last November and we thank them both for all their hard work, whilst in March this year Rob Swanscott was co-opted to join the Council and we look forward to working with him. This does still leave us with two vacancies though, so if you think you have what it takes to be a Parish Councillor then please come along to our meetings and find out more about what these amazing volunteers do, giving their time freely for the benefit of the village as a whole.

Our Clerk has put together a short list of what the Council has been up to this year, although I'm not going to talk about the Village Hall, as I'll leave that to Neil, but here are some of the other highlights:

- 1) A Community Speedwatch Group has been set up and has been active on the roads of the parish, so watch out for those yellow-jacketed volunteers.
- 2) A successful event was organised to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings and a similar event will be arranged for this year's VE day anniversary with the beacon being lit at 9.30pm more information on this will be shared soon.
- 3) Unexpectedly the Parish Council has been offered the chance to purchase the land at Tollgate Corner. We are currently working on ways to progress this project and raise funds to secure this piece of land for future community benefit.
- 4) The Framsdén Footpath map is currently in the process of being revised, ready for a reprint, and will include the veteran trees of the parish and the village pub.
- 5) Over the course of the year the Parish Council has been involved in 9 planning consultations, which is a valuable opportunity for the community to offer a local viewpoint, although it is important to note that the Parish Council do not have any decision making powers on any planning matters, we are simply a consultee.
- 6) Thanks must again be expressed to our volunteer who looks after the Recycling Bins in the layby at Peat Corner. This year just over £1,022 has been raised from these bins, a valuable extra source of income that helps the Parish Council to operate the Village Hall, so do keep on collecting and depositing your glass and textiles.
- 7) Thanks are also expressed to the hardworking team of volunteer litter pickers who were out in force for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Litter Pick in March, fueled by bacon rolls.
- 8) The long awaiting Section 19 Flood Report in the wake of Storm Babet was published last December. The Parish Council is now looking at formulating an Emergency Plan as part of the recommendations from the report.
- 9) Finally, one of the biggest changes that is coming down the pipeline is the Devolution, which although primarily affecting the County and District levels of Council, will inevitably have some impact on us as a Parish Council. Alongside this, many of you will know that Helmingham have recently lost their Parish Council and suggestions have been made that Framsdén and Helmingham could be a merged Parish. This is a very long and complicated process and at the moment is little more than a suggestion, but more information will be shared as and when it is available.