

## Hemsby Parish Council – the last 14 months

A comprehensive tree inspection has been carried out at all Parish Council owned land, this has identified that significant works that are long over due & this work has to be undertaken by professionals rather than volunteers due to the complexity, close proximity to residential properties & to ensure adequate insurance, risk assessments & training of contractors is in place. This has also resulted in us having to apply to GYBC for permission to carry out works at the burial ground as it is in the Conservation area.

We have refurbished the Public Toilets that we own at a total cost of £31,278.00, this was to have the building re-wired, re-plumber, new cubicles installed, sanitary ware, baby changing facilities in both the male & female toilets, an alarm in the Disabled toilets, new hand driers, we also had to have asbestos removed which was discovered in the first stage of the project. We had to apply to the Government (Public Loans Work Board) to borrow £23,000.00, with the balance coming from reserves. It was a requirement to hold a public consultation with the residents as it was going to be necessary to raise the precept to cover the repayments, this was publicised on our website, Facebook page & our noticeboards in the village. We have been awarded a grant of £5000.00 by GYBC BID towards this work & hope to use that as a down payment to reduce the loan repayments over the coming years. We also had to register them & the office with the Land Registry to show that we legally own them.

We have installed the outdoor gym at the Playingfield, this was funded solely by the Parish Council & cost just over £12,000.00.

In 2020 the Parish Council Clerk left her position due to ill health, while she mainlined in post a locum was arranged for many months & then it was agreed to advertise for a new clerk. Once a new clerk was found there was a two month overlap period. It became apparent that due to the complexity of the Parish Councils finances & the large amount of work that needed in establishing a working budget, cash flow, historic VAT reclaims & monitoring etc to provide better assurances to both Cllrs & residents a financial officer was appointed, this person also a qualified clerk & provides holiday cover to the clerk & assistance when required on the many projects that the council has undertaken.

We have installed four benches in the village for use of residents & visitors, as well as tidying up the area outside the co-op & installed wooden posts to prevent parking on the grass. Two boat planters were donated to the Parish Council & installed at the corner of North Road & at the Playingfield.

We supported Hemsby in Bloom in its first year to help it get started & in turn they assisted with many projects.

We have just registered the Kings Head Public House on North Road as an asset of community value as this is what the respondents to the Neighbourhood Survey wanted us to do.

Later this month we will be stating a new planting scheme for the Kingsway Island site to refresh the tired area and in addition to the site visits paid for by Norfolk County Council we will be funding four more visits this year, this has been funded via the budget & another grant from GYBC BID of £2000.00. We will also be repainting the railings & memorial bench on that site.

We have installed two new flashing speed signs (SAM2S) to help deter speeding in the village. We also installed the Glasdon Gateways & additional road markings at three entrances to the village, Martham Road, Yarmouth Road & Ormesby Rd, unfortunately we were unable to install one on

Winterton Road due to the width of the verges, this project cost £5000.00 & we received 50% funding through the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership fund.

We have set some funds aside to repair & repaint the railings at Pit Road.

We have saved the red telephone box at Kingsway by adopting it from BT as they wanted to remove it & had electricity installed so that it can have a defibrillator installed once it has been repainted.

We have our own dedicated litter picker who visits roads in the parish every week, the Playing field & our burial ground, cleans our bush shelters, they also daily clean Kingsway Island site & bus shelter as well as open & closed the burial ground car park every day. This person also is paid by the Parish Council to clean the beach during peak season, as tourism is a very large part of our economy the GYBC BID also match fund this too.

The Pavilion has been brought up to standard, many taps were replaced in addition to the normal annual servicing of the boilers & heating oil. The fire extinguishers have been replaced, the emergency lighting has been tested & replaced where it was found to be faulty, two new external doors had to be fitted as they were rotten & one of which did not open at all and posed a risk to life in the event of a fire. The fire alarm has been serviced & the site is inspected weekly to fulfil our requirements to our insurers. It was hoped that this would now be let out during the day & evening to village groups to help pay for its up keep, but due to COVID this has not been possible & the existing groups were unable to use it. The entrance bollard on to the Playing field also stopped working & this was replaced with a gate as a cheaper & more suitable replacement as it does not need servicing every year.

We applied for funding to replace the tennis court with a multi-use games area (MUGA), but we were not successful, we have now started saving towards the estimated £75,000.00 cost of the project.

The memorial garden in burial ground has had a make over as well as all the hedges & shrubs, the pot holes in the road way have been repaired, a cherry tree has been removed as it was interfering with graves. The grass is cut every two weeks during the growing season to ensure that the site is well maintained. The Community Payback team spent three days on the site & generated approximately 3 tonnes of garden waste due to trimming the hedges & bushes. A local farmer also assisted them as they removed approximately 6 Tonnes of soil which had been allowed to build up on the site over the last few years.

We worked with Norfolk Community Payback team to tidy up other areas in Hemsby including street sweeping on the Barley croft estate & removing a large bush at the Playing field, they also weeded & tidied up the tennis court.

The Parish Office has also been brought up to date in respect of fire safety & electrical safety including PAT testing, this now means that we are able to place the office on to the lettings market & bring the Parish Council in some very much needed additional income. The Office records will be moved to be stored at the pavilion & future Parish Council meetings will be held there.

We have submitted another application to Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership for funding to support us in replacing our bus shelters as part of a rolling programme with ones that may help us deter the anti-social behaviour that we keep suffering in them. This year due to the design of the current ones and following advice from the police we have had to unfortunately remove two benches from the bus shelters on North Road & Yarmouth Road. These were being used in an unacceptable way, providing many complaints from near by residents & requiring our litter picker to

attend to cleanse them & clear them up far more regularly than was acceptable. We have been looking at suitable replacements that maintain their main function, fit in with their surroundings, provide a more visible inside & deter anti-social behaviour after dark.