

**CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for the Year
2024 to 2025**

As the new Chairman of Clopton Parish Council then this is my first annual report and annual meeting, so please be forgiving rather than critical if I have omitted anyone or anything!

Changes

I was appointed Chairman of the Parish Council during this year as our previous chairman Pete Raffell wished to step back to a role of purely parish councillor and I would like to thank Pete for his tremendous efforts and contribution over his tenure as Chairman. Maria Elia was welcomed onto the parish council as a replacement for Councillor Gittoes which means we have retained our full complement of Councillors throughout this year. However, Councillor Ashard has decided to stand down for the upcoming year with immediate effect and I would like to thank him for his efforts; additionally Councillor Raffell has also decided to stand down but this will be at some point in the year ahead. Therefore we will be looking to co-opt replacement councillors, one now and one later in the year, if anyone within the village would be interested in joining the parish council.

Parish Council Meetings

Six regular meetings of the Parish Council were held during the year as scheduled, plus five additional meetings to discuss planning applications (in fact February was the only month we didn't have a meeting!). All parish council meetings were held in person at the village hall.

Accounts

Total receipts for the year 2024 / 2025 amounted to £7,952.69 (including a VAT reclaim of £94.00), of which £5,550 came from the Precept. The balance is made up from bank interest of £208.69 and the balance from grant funding of £2,100.00 (this amount being already committed for next year). Total Payments for the year amounted to £5,167.05 (incl. VAT).

After the grant that is already committed is taken into account, our expenditure over the year, was £591.74 less than our income. General Reserves as at 31 March 2025 were £9,296.41.

The annual accounts were submitted to the Internal Auditor, and I am pleased to tell you, a clean report was received.

Our annual precept for this coming year will increase by 3% to cater for the anticipated additional costs associated with running the parish council.

Planning Applications

Seventeen planning applications were received during the year, of which eleven were permitted, one was withdrawn, and five are awaiting decisions. Clopton Parish Council reviewed and made submissions on all of these.

Topics & Issues

Housing Needs Survey

A housing needs survey was conducted in January of this year and the results illustrated that there was a requirement for affordable housing within Clopton; the next stage, which is currently underway, is engagement with East Suffolk Council to pursue the process they have in place for this. Unfortunately, from talking with them it is normally a 2-5 year period from commencing a housing needs survey to the availability of physical housing.

Road Safety/Highways:

The parish council lobbied Suffolk County Council Highways to get the road markings refreshed on the B1078 near Shop Road and successfully lobbied them to get Shop Road resurfaced. We are still pushing them on a 40mph speed limit to cover the Manor Road / Shop Road junctions with the B1078 but as yet we don't have a finite decision.

As ever, given the expected increase in traffic levels from the proposed use of the B1078 as a feeder route for workers to the Sizewell C construction site, road safety remains a cause for concern not just for the B1078 but the whole parish.

However, given the lack of funding being experienced by our County Council at the moment it may be difficult to achieve any improvements in the short term, but I would encourage residents who have legitimate concerns to raise them both with Suffolk County Council Highways and the Parish Council.

Suffolk County Council Highways have confirmed that the ditch at Otley Bottom is scheduled to be cleared by the end July. This should ease some of the flooding issues, although Suffolk County Council Highways have stated that "repairs/improvements are required which cannot be done within Suffolk County Council usual routine maintenance activities".

Potholes and Footpaths

Please keep reporting issues on the Suffolk County Council Website. This does help raise the profile of any problems faster than waiting for a Parish Council Meeting and is just as, if not more effective.

Village Hall

You will hear later from John Dawson, the Chairman of the Village Hall management committee regarding both the current and planned/required improvements to village hall facilities and the challenges being faced. We have successfully gained funding of £2,100 for the repair of the play equipment which will now be undertaken in the coming weeks.

I would also take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Village Hall management committee who relieve the Parish Council of a great deal of work on the running and upkeep of this excellent village asset.

Finally:

I would like to thank Our District Councillors, DC Colin Hedgley and DC Dan Clery and of course, our County Councillor, Elaine Bryce for their help and support to the Parish.

Our thanks once again to our communications officer Della Hughes who continues to run the Clopton eNews and assists with the village website. Thanks also to all the volunteers who help run the 'Off the Bus' club on a weekly basis as a valuable asset to the younger members of our parish.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all those supporting our village in various other ways which continue to make Clopton the village that it is.

Finally, I would like to convey my personal thanks to David Gooch, our Parish Clerk, who has enabled me to transition into the role of Chairman without any issues and kept the Parish Council running as smoothly as ever, you will be greatly missed when you leave in the Autumn. On that note, if anyone is aware of someone who would like to take on the role of Parish Clerk then please let my self or Dave know.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Tiley-Nunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ian Tiley-Nunn
Chairman
Clopton Parish Council**

21st May 2025