

## **Annual Report of the Council**

### **Chairmans Report**

#### **WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING APRIL 2025**

I hope you will take the time to read all the reports on our website.

These reports highlight some of the fantastic work being done in Mistley by local organisations. We are rightly proud of all of them and their contribution to our village. I hope we will all continue to work closely together. The PC is committed to help wherever possible.

Manningtree Rotary deserves special mention as always. We often see them clearing pathways and are always happy to help out at any events. If anyone fancies becoming a member and helping out with their good work I am sure they would welcome you.

Our Cricket and Rugby and Bowls and Football Clubs provide first class sports facilities, results have been fantastic and a credit to all, not just the senior teams but developing sporting prowess in our youngsters and ladies teams too.

Mistley Kids Club continue to provide excellent services to children who really appreciate the help they get. Every week they seem to have something new happening and typically they look after up to 60 children per day. I know many parents really appreciate having this facility in Mistley.

Village Hall has continued to improve its facilities, has a new floor in the main hall and hosts many local groups and events throughout the week.

Mistley Parish Council is proud of you all and will provide whatever support we can.

What has the Parish done this year: A few highlights.

Firstly, we should all thank Susan, our Clerk. Despite breaking her shoulder last year and not being able to drive for some months she continued to provide us with excellent service, attending meetings via Zoom when she could not physically be with us. Thank you, we know we have someone special helping us.

Our risk assessment process is now well embedded. These are conducted on all play areas, the three allotment sites and our churchyard's. These have highlighted issues for attention for as diverse as worn hinges on swings, unstable gravestones, to falling trees. Hopefully we are keeping Mistley safe for everyone to enjoy.

ECC asked us if we could identify anywhere to plant trees! Submissions from Councillors and parishioners meant we could submit a list of possible sites. As you will have seen along the walls,

Harwich Road and Middlefield Road now have some splendid trees planted that will enhance the street scene for many years to come.

Our Community Orchards, one by the allotments at River Reach the other larger one on the new field adjacent to the Rugby Club are now a year old. Huge thanks to those who helped keep them watered every day last summer, Ian, Sam are here tonight, and for the Village Hall for providing the water. A great effort, thanks. This year we have been trained on how to prune them properly, so they are in good hands going forward. We also hope that a full mains supply will be connected up at the back of the Rugby Club, reducing the daily watering time by an hour or so.

A big thank you to our grounds maintenance contractor, Great Oaktree Land Services for giving us 70 open woodland trees which you can see growing behind the Furze Hill Community Orchard.

Sam, our Warden had rebuilt the entrance to the Railway allotments, which is not much safer, thanks Sam.

Knobbly received some TLC this year, a restraining fence to reduce footfall, and some mulch to Retain more water and soften footfall. (Thanks to Great Oaktree Land Services for the mulch)

#### People

I will mention Susan again for all the hard work she does for Mistley and keeping us on track.

Sam Forrester, our warden keeps us free of litter and does countless small jobs around Mistley every week. He always responds immediately and gets the job done whether it be replacing the posts or putting up signs, thanks again Sam

Keith Garwood. Our Footpath warden, probably the only person in Mistley who knows where all the foot paths are, he alerts us to any problems such as fallen trees or waterlogged pathways. Thanks Keith as always for your dedication to keeping them open. We have added a couple of footpaths to the Parish groundworks contract this year where they were previously getting overgrown.

Councillors. We have a couple of vacancies, so if you or anyone you know wants to make a difference and help out please ask them to contact us.

Finances. Our balance sheet is healthy, our budgeting is good and our reserves are robust. As Mistley has grown we have a little more money to improve the Parish and we even manages to reduce the precept (cost to you) by 5%

#### Future Projects

Sports club leases. We are almost ready to complete the Rugby Club lease which will give them security and a little for freedom, the Bowls Club lease will hopefully be completed in the next few months.

The bus shelter along Harwich Road is a bit of an eyesore, hopefully we can improve/replace that soon. See Jenny, she will not rest until it's replaced.

Events. The last year or two has shown Mistley enjoys public events. The Pram Race enjoyed a bright sunny afternoon and was well attended and the feedback was good.

The Parish Council has decided that in future we will not host events, but will support others who wish to.  
It's a better use of our time and enables us concentrate of facilitation, rather than organisation.

Mistley Parish Council is happy to take feedback and listen to your ideas all through the year.

**Cllr Paul Nutter**

**Chairman, Mistley Parish Council**