

14 April 2023 Parish Assembly

2022/23 Chairman's Report

It is good to see so many of you here this evening at our annual community event.

The Parish Council consists of myself as the Chair, I am the Council representative on the West Trust; lead the Speed Watch Team and I am on the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils; Ken Green who is the Vice Chair and heads up the Footpaths Committee, Peter Warburton leads the Planning Committee, looks after our website and organises the Litter Picking activities; Kevin Ludgate, Harvey Greenwood who is responsible for Police Liaison and is not only our newest member but also the youngest member of the team and of course our Clerk Lesley Smith. Jan Day and Frances Masters have stepped down from the Council and we would like to thank them for their work.

We work on a voluntary basis trying to do as much as we can for our local community. As well as our monthly meetings and individual responsibilities we attend local and area meetings where decisions can be made that affect our Parish. We lobby MP's and local councillors, we defend the rural nature of our community, we encourage and support local activities, we look for ways of improving facilities and the infrastructure, we strive to keep our community spirit and, as your representatives, we listen to you.

Our Precept this year is £8,664.00. About a quarter of the precept goes straight back into our community in the form of grants and awards – we are limited to the amount we are allowed to allocate for grants. We keep a third for contingencies and the rest is used in the running of the Council activities.

The accounts can be viewed on our website or via the Clerk.

Our work over the past year included reporting fly tipping and potholes, reviewing planning applications, keeping footpaths clear, keeping gulleys clear and much more.

We have two solar farms to be developed in our Parish. We are in conversation with the developers of both solar farms to discuss community benefit or funding for projects in the Parish.

We are pressing for a site meeting with CBC Highways to discuss more substantial traffic calming measures and protection for One Home Farm on the first bend on the Toddington Road. That property has been hit by speeding cars six times over the years.

The Speed Watch Team are out once a month in Tebworth and Wingfield to remind drivers of the speed limit.

We are aware that the sight lines coming out of Chalgrave Road onto the B5120 are not good. The bushes are overgrown, and we are tracing and contacting the landowner to ask that they cut them back.

We are in contact with the planning department about the development at Ivy Farm. The building is not what was in the original agreed planning application. The building should have larch or oak

cladding on it which would soften the look of the building. The building at the moment looks nothing like the artists impression on the boards outside.

We are looking into rewilding some of the verges in the Parish and to do something with the land opposite the Queens Head.

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area. However, there are break-ins and burglaries so please make sure that doors and windows are locked and outbuildings are secure. It is important to report anything that you think is suspicious and report any crimes.

The Millennium Youth and the Community Awards for the past year. We need nominations. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement or community service. The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under and is a 'well done' for academic or sporting achievement, contribution to the community, overcoming difficulties, or other significant achievement. The Community Award is for over eighteens and is a 'thank you' for service to the community. If you have a nomination please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the councillors.

Just want to say a brief word about West Educational Trust. The Trust gives grants towards the cost of any educational activity for young people 25 years and under – this could be music lessons, dance, sporting activity, educational school trips, cubs, brownies, scouts, grants to students in full time higher education, anything educational. Grants are given twice a year – applications need to be handed into the Clerk at the end of June and end of December. Full details and application form are on the Chalgrave Parish Council website under Organisations.

Finally, there is a community event coming up – on Sunday 7th May in the afternoon, there will be a Street Party in the Lane to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

You are invited to any of our meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7:30. Minutes of our meetings are posted on the Chalgrave Parish Council website and on the notice boards.

Phil Parry
Chair