

Chair's Annual Report 2023-24

Thanks to the current Parish Councillors who are all present, Richard Ovey, John Hill, Rob Hadfield, Susan Hems. This is the first AGM for our new Parish Clerk, Annette Young who joined us in January. Also due thanks are our elected representatives, on Oxford County Council, Cllr David Bartholomew and on South Oxfordshire District Council, Councillors Jo Robb and Lorraine Hillier.

Planning applications

22 received during the year 2023/24 (30 in 2022-23)

5 objections by the PC 3 pending

Highlands Park

An application to further expand Highlands Park is a concern, as it will only generate increased levels of traffic that will pass through our village.

Remembrance Sunday

The 105th Remembrance was marked with wreath laying at the War Memorial.

The Village Fete

The fete again took place on the first Sunday in September. As always it attracted large numbers, brought the village together and raised funds for the church and villager hall. However, there will be no Fete in 2024, but it is hoped that it will return in 2025 after those who run it have had a summer off duty.

Finance

Our finances remain on a sound footing, with a healthy balance in excess of £20,000.

Charities

The parish council continues to support local and community charities. We made a variety of charity donations totalling over £2000.

Traffic Calming - 20 MPH Zones

The volume and speed of the traffic on all roads through the village is an ongoing concern to many residents. We have started the process of creating a 20MPH zone on the road that includes the corner past the church and The Maltsters Pub as we have been unable to drive forward the scheme to install a pedestrian pavement on that corner. We are also now assessing the possibility of creating a second 20 MPH zone on the back lane passing Shepherds Green.

Village Litter Pick

A village litter pick took place in March, thanks are due to Graham and Jo Duncan for organising it and providing tea and cakes afterwards.

War Memorial

It became apparent that there are quite a number of names of individuals who should be remembered with an inscription on the War Memorial but who are not there. We are commissioning a stonemason to correct this in the coming months.

Defibrillators

We have asked Millie's Dreams to take over responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillators at the village hall and The Maltsters Arms. The PC charge will be treated as a donation.

Nick Digby
Chair – RGPC