

Annual Cleeve Prior Parish Council Meeting.

15th May 2023

Chairman's Annual Report.

The Parish Council maintained a full programme of monthly meetings during 2022/23.

In some respects our activities have not fully complied with required standards inasmuch as the resignation of our Clerk led to an unsatisfactory handover and deadlines were missed for submission of accounts to the external auditor. Also a good deal of administrative time was lost in re-establishing our Banking relationship and interaction with HMRC leading to the imposition of fines which, I am happy to report, have since been rescinded. This is due to the diligent work of our new Clerk.

The recruitment and induction of our new Clerk, Ms. Stacey Smith has taken a good deal of time and attention. This has been amply rewarded in seeing our Council administration brought under open and orderly control with improved communication and initiative. Also for the first time we have now established a Parish Council office within the memorial Hall putting our business administration onto a vastly superior formal footing.

We were delighted to welcome Bryan Eden as a new Councillor during the year, he brings a wealth of experience. However we have carried a vacancy for one Councillor throughout the year and hope this can be resolved in the coming period.

The Parish Council maintains close relationships with the District Council through our excellent District Councillor and our County Councillor has provided frequent support during the year. Meetings have taken place with the WDC Chief Executive and with senior West Mercia police officers, complementing our weekly liaison with local police officers.

The Council participates in the County Lengthsman scheme. I am happy to report that our Lengthsman achieves excellent results in his activities of highway maintenance.

Many planning applications have been dealt with over the year however it is a long-standing concern that we do not have resolution of the proposed development of the Evesham Road site. We continue to monitor this closely as events evolve. The other major issue relates to the appeal for extension of the

caravan site at Hayward Way. Much work has gone into responding to this appeal and engaging legal support.

An area that has evolved to the stage where we have closer relationships with The Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust involved the establishment of a Parish Councillor on the Trustee Board of the Trust. Cllr. Kevin Mellor has taken on this role alongside the myriad activities in which he participates in supporting and improving Village life. This has led to productive liaison in the areas of materials acquisition, grant applications and general communication. This now presents a more unified approach to the security, maintenance and management of important village assets. A successful application to the District Council resulted in a substantial grant being made available for the restoration of the C.P.O. land as and when this becomes viable. Thanks to Councillor Ian Robinson for the work put into this and so many other background projects.

Various projects have seen development during the year, The Village Highway Gates have been installed after long delays with Highways department, The playing field had substantial enhancement for the enjoyment of younger users and we formally stood down the C.P. Support Group that worked so diligently during the pandemic. Work continued through the year in developing a new Village Website and this is now up and running as a superb showcase of the beauty of our Village. The accolade for this goes primarily to Cllr. Doug Carr.

Of course, the major event of the year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Cllr Mary Smith achieved an excellent coalition of talent from the whole village to stage a superb weekend of activities. This will remain a fine memory for many people.

So, another eventful year for the Parish Council and I wish to pay tribute to all the folk who contribute to the running and maintenance of our Community. As well as the substantial time and voluntary effort of the Parish Councillors, we salute our local Police personnel, Footpath officer, Lengthsman, District & County Councillors, The Heritage Trust, The Memorial Hall Management Group and all the volunteers who run special groups for social and leisure activities.

Peter Wilson.

Chair, Cleeve Prior Parish Council.