



Wiswell PC Chairman's report 24 /25

The past year has been one of the changes and considerable activity. In relation to change we thank Judith Pursglove, Oi Mei Wrightson and Sarah Clemson for their work as Parish Councillors, all of whom have stepped down from the role. We were pleased to welcome Mike Ramsbottom, David Birtwhistle and Richard Vickers onto the council and I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank them for their advice and support throughout the year. We are constantly on the lookout for volunteers from our community to take on the role of Parish Counsellor to enable colleagues of a certain vintage (e.g. me) to gradually withdraw from public service. If anybody is interested in the role or simply wants to know more about what the role involves, please contact me directly

In terms of the council's administration there has also been significant change as we have welcomed Greera Norse to the role of Parish Clerk whilst retaining the services of Mike Hill as our Financial Officer. Mike has taken the role of town clerk for Longridge and so naturally wished to reduce the number of hours he worked for us, and those hours were often far more than the actual hours he was contracted for. Again, a personal note of thanks to Mike for all his work over the year and most significantly in helping us to secure a grant of close to £13K for refurbishing the Coronation Garden and its environment.

Moving on to how we have spent that money! The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed the following developments in Coronation Garden:

- A new wooden trellis to the rear of the garden to replace the old rotten structure
- A new coping stone top to the wall of the garden
- A small, raised bed between the garden and the pumping station
- A lean-to trellis against the pumping station which will soon be filled with trailing plants and herbs
- Several traditional stone troughs and a bird bath
- A Victorian streetlamp sourced, refurbished and installed by Bruce Mitchell
- Plaques to commemorate the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2nd and the Coronation of Charles 3rd.
- Shelving in the red telephone box so that we can reintroduce our village library in the summer months. In the coming weeks the phone box is set to be re-painted.
- New plants in the garden, raised beds and troughs

And on order.... A new Parish Council Noticeboard to replace the wooden board which we will attempt to restore and put to good use elsewhere in the village. The planning and project management of the development has taken some time and thanks to all for their support and

ideas including Edmund and Jean Sandham (construction of bug hotel Moor Lane plus much more), Bruce Mitchell, Maureen Robinson, Sarah Yeowart and Sue Walmsley.

In relation to Village activities throughout the year:

- In late June we held our village open garden event and although we weren't blessed with favorable weather thanks to all for their attendance and support and of course to the residents who kindly opened their magnificent gardens to our community.
- We ran two defibrillator training sessions in Pendleton Village Hall. Whilst training videos are available, residents welcomed the opportunity for a face-to-face session so that questions could be asked and points raised.
- Our Remembrance Sunday event was as always well attended and the occasion further enhanced by securing a bugler (Chris Gibson). This year marks the centenary of the unveiling of our war memorial. As always, many thanks to Oi Mei and Michael Wrightson for their support in maintaining the war memorial.
- We've also had two well attended quiz nights this year expertly organized by Paul Marlowe and Mike Cavanagh and hosted at the Freemasons
- Our annual Christmas Carols event got the festive season off to a good start and many thanks to Chris Yeowart and Sarah Clemson for organising our Christmas lunches.

In my last report I referenced the concerns of some residents regarding the rise in the Parish Precept to cover the costs of the work and administration of the Council. I'm happy to report that this year we have managed to keep the increase to broadly align with inflation. We will continue to be vigilant in accessing additional funding streams to support or work in attempt to reduce the financial burden on residents.