

## Chairman's Report 2024/2025

### Charlton and Newbottle APM – 14 April 2025

#### **Thanks**

Thanks to members of the public for attending the meeting.

Thanks to the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their work over the last 12 months and also to the West Northants Unity Authority Councillors Rebecca Breese, Rosie Herring and Richard Solesbury-Timms for their support.

Parish Council elections are due to be held on 1 May 2025. However, there are only five candidates for the seven seats, therefore the election is uncontested and the five candidates will be duly elected on 1 May 2025.

Mark Bracey is stepping down from the Parish Council and he is thanked for all his work over the last four years.

**Jetty Wall** – The latest update from Sam Simons at WNC:

*The only viable solution is unfortunately well beyond any budget I currently have or am likely to have. As we've discussed before, any action here would be a goodwill gesture only, given the lack of clear ownership of the area in question.*

*I'm happy to sit down or visit the site to talk through potential options, but I do need to stress that without external support, there isn't a straightforward way forward at this stage.*

#### **Finance**

Grants - £650 has been donated to the PCC, £200 for The Link, £30 for a Remembrance Day wreath and £350 for the grass cutting at the Memorial Hall.

Internal Audit - Auditing Solutions was appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2024/2025. The Clerk will present the accounts for the last financial year later in the meeting.

Precept for 2025/2026 – This had been increased by £1000 to £16,000. An increase was necessary due to the rising costs of electricity for the street lights and a general increase in all contractor costs.

#### **Traffic Calming and Parking**

Residents have been regularly reminded about parking considerately and safely in the village, however parking issues were still a problem. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have any powers in respect of parking and highways and it can only issue polite reminders via Facebook and The Link.

The Parish Council still hoped to introduce the Community Speedwatch Scheme and if anyone in the community is willing to assist, please contact the Clerk.

## **Planning**

The Parish Council has considered a number of planning applications and these are available to view on the West Northants Council web site. The Parish Council had also submitted a response on the revised Local Plan and will be discussing it further at the next Parish Council meeting. All residents are also encouraged to take part in the consultation.

## **Village Matters**

**Dog Fouling** – This had continued to be an issue in the village and the PC encouraged dog owners to clear up after their pets.

**Street Lighting** – Phase 2 of the street lighting project has been completed and all lights in the village should now be LED.

**Grass Cutting** – Mick Dempsey has done a good job of keeping the grass verges smart and tidy and has been awarded the contract again this year.

**Web sites & The Link** – Lisa Scanlon has stepped down from editing the village web site and the PC thanks Lisa for her work. Julia Rands is thanked for all her work on The Link.

**Litter Pick** – The annual litter pick is being held on Friday 25 April 2025 at 6pm, starting at the Memorial Hall. All residents are invited to attend and support the tidy up of the village. Equipment will be provided.

**VE Day** – VE Day is on 8 May 2025 and Councillor Mark Bracey is purchasing a flag which will be raised on 8 May.

**Defibrillators** - The Parish Council is continuing with the maintenance of the defib at the Memorial Hall and Kevin Ridge is thanked for checking it and ensuring it is in working order and the pads are not out of date. A defib is also available at the playing field.

**Play Equipment** - Councillor Jordan Bolton is continuing to investigate grant funding for new play equipment in Myers Close however, options are very limited and no funding has yet to be obtained. Funding of around £30,000 is required.

## **Playing Field**

Brackley Athletic FC has continued using the field for their matches this season and although there have been a few issues with parking on match days, these have been quickly addressed by the Football Club and the Parish Council is pleased to work with their coaches and officers.

Thanks everyone for attending the meeting.

**End of report.**