

Chairman's Report 2022/2023

Charlton and Newbottle APM – 17 April 2023

Thanks - Councillors and Clerk for their work over the last 12 months and District Councillors Rebecca Breese, Rosie Herring and Richard Solesbury-Timms. Wayne Rule is thanked for standing as Vice-Chairman and the Parish Council was pleased to welcome Matthew Walsh who was co-opted onto the PC earlier this year.

Pavilion and Playing Field – This project to improve the playing field had made good progress in the last 12 months and all the volunteers on the PFA are thanked for their hard work and support. The car park has been extended and phase 1 of the footpath around the perimeter is finished. The Parish Council gave a £3000 grant to the PFA for this work. The lease had also been amended which will now allow grant applications to be submitted for a new building. The Parish Council will also be covering the £2000 cost for a temporary storage container on the site.

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.

The Parish Council is also pleased that Charlton FC Men's Team are continuing to play at the playing field too.

Flag Pole – As you will have seen, the Parish Council has erected a flag pole at the Memorial Hall, with the consent of the Hall Committee. The flag will be flown on important occasions such as royal birthdays etc. It will also be flown on 6 May 2023 to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Defibrillators – The Parish Council was continuing with the maintenance of the defib at the Primary School and Kevin Ridge was thanked for checking it and ensuring it is in working order and the pads are not out of date.

A new defib was purchased for the playing field pavilion but as it is only available on match days and when the pavilion is open, the Parish Council has agreed to purchase a cabinet. The Clerk was working with Brackley Athletic to progress this.

Defibrillator training is being held on 10 June 2023, 10am to 12 noon at the Memorial Hall. If any residents would like to attend, please contact the Clerk.

Grants - £650 has been donated to the PCC, £150 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 2022/2023. The Clerk would present the accounts for 2022/2023 later in the meeting.

Precept for 2023/2024 – This had been increased by £500 to £14,000. An increase was necessary due to the rising costs of electricity for the street lights and a general increase in all contractor costs.

Parking – Residents had 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. Any illegal parking should be reported to the Police.

Planning – The Parish Council has considered a number of planning applications and these are available to view on the West Northants Council web site.

Dog Fouling – This had continued to be an issue in the village and the PC encouraged dog owners to clear up after their pets. A new dog waste bin had been installed by the Rose and Crown last year and the unit on the Cemetery footpath had been replaced.

Grass Cutting – Mick Dempsey had done a good job again this year and has been awarded the contract for 2023/2024.

Web sites & The Link – Lisa Scanlon is still editing the village web site and the PC thanked her for her work. Julia Rands is thanked for all her work on The Link.

Street Lighting – The Parish Council had been working closely with Eon and only one more needed to be replaced once the hedge had been cut back and the project would then be completed. In total 27 lights had been replaced in the village. A quote would now be obtained to replace lights Myers Close.