

## Chairman's Report 2023/2024

### Charlton and Newbottle APM – 15 April 2024

Wayne Rule, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council chaired the meeting because Councillor Michael Loggin, Chairman of the Parish Council, is unable to attend.

#### **Thanks**

Thanks to members of the public for attending the meeting.

Thanks to the Chairman and Parish Council 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.

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

#### **Defibrillators**

The Parish Council is continuing with the maintenance of the defib at the Memorial and Kevin Ridge is thanked for checking it and ensuring it is in working order and the pads are not out of date.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, but only during match days.

#### **Play Equipment**

Councillor Jordan Bolton has been obtaining quotes for new play equipment for the play area in Myers Close. He is also investigating grant funding and the Parish Council hopes to progress this project in the coming months, if funding can be obtained. This project was instigated by a request from the Pre-School as their children often use the play area. All the play equipment has now been removed from the playing field in Farthinghoe Road due to its condition.

#### **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 2023/2024. The Clerk would present the accounts for 2023/2024 later in the meeting.

Precept for 2023/2024 – This had been increased by £1000 to £15,000. 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 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. Also, the Chairman, Michael Loggin had attended a site meeting with Helen Howard from the Unity Authority regarding a proposal for a parking area on Farthinghoe Road and there will be an update at the next Parish Council meeting.

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. '20 is plenty' stickers are also available for residents to utilise.

### **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 encourage 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.

Grass Cutting – Mick Dempsey had done a good job again this year and has been awarded the contract for 2024/2025.

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.

Bus Shelter – The shelter on Green Lane which housed a number of books are available to share in the community and will have some additional shelving installed. Councillor Kevin Ridge is thanked for agreeing to complete this work.

Litter Pick – The annual litter pick is being held on Friday 26 April 2024 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.

### **Memorial**

Hazel Haskin has recently passed away and condolences have been sent to her family. A memorial service was also held on Friday 22 March 2024. Hazel was born in the Rose and Crown and had been the Clerk to the Parish Council for many years, as well as being a member on the Committees of other village institutions, including the Cricket Club. Hazel grew up at the Rose and Crown where her parents were the landlords for more than 25 years and she would be sadly missed by all those who knew her.