

## **Pebworth Parish Council Annual Report 2021-22**

Good evening.

As you will know we were able to restart physical meetings last year and although this annual report will not cover any Covid matters, unlike last years one, we are respectful that Covid remains with us and has affected many of the parishioners. It is therefore our pleasure to welcome you back to the Annual Parish Meeting and thankful that we can again meet in person.

### **Parish Council**

You may have noticed some new faces on the Parish Council and following the resignation of SJ Morrow, the co opting process was initiated and 3 strong candidates for the casual vacancy applied. In March this year, we voted Samantha Parkins onto the council, welcome to Sam. Thanks are given to SJ Morrow for her time and work with the council, and to the other candidates that applied for the position.

You will also notice that Donna Bowles is with us, Donna is our very able Parish Clerk and was appointed last year following the resignation of John Stedman – welcome Donna.

For those new to the Parish or haven't met us before, the full members of the council are:

- Donna Bowles – Parish Clerk
- Richard Weller – Chair
- James Pearson – Vice Chair
- Denise Meynell - Member
- Samantha Parkin – Member
- Dave Cranage – Member
- John Hyde – Member
- Simon Shiers – Member

We continue to meet in person here at the Village Hall, on the first Monday of every month, except when a bank holiday. We welcome all members of the public and the beginning of the meeting is set aside for members of the public to raise questions or provide advice.

The role of Parish Lengthsman and Handyman continues to be held by Cllr John Hyde and he carries out maintenance of Parish assets (play equipment, fencing, etc) as well as clearing vegetation, pruning and removal of tree branches and dead trees, weed spraying on pavements and gutters, and numerous other jobs which keep the Parish running. As I did last year, we should like to thank John for his continued hard work and support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pass on our most grateful thanks to Alastair and Thomas for all they have done for us as our ward members.

## **Achievements**

The Parish Council continues to provide its support to the community across a range of issues large and small and these are some of the achievements since our last Annual Parish Meeting:

**Village Hall extension & renovation.** The Village Hall project was completed since we last met and we are very lucky to have such a wonderful and versatile asset in the village; no doubt you will have noticed the many events that are taking place now, from weddings, fund raising events, parties and even Guinea Pig shows!

**Installation of outside Trim Trail Equipment.** You may have noticed alongside the MUGA on the recreation field, we installed a series of physical activity items as a “trim trail”. This was following a successful application to Wychavon Council for the funding of “outdoor activity” equipment. The rules around this grant were quite specific and hope that the parish enjoy the benefits.

**Streetlight upgrade.** The project to upgrade the streetlights in Pebworth for energy efficient LED units is almost complete with the final phase having just been ordered for installation in various areas including; Chapel Road, Little Meadows and Elm Close. We see the benefits of this project as being, saving in energy costs (especially with current trend in costs), enhanced aesthetics, improved lighting, consistency and safer columns, having replaced the failed concrete columns.

**New Play Equipment Consultation.** As you may know the older playground equipment on The Close is in need of replacement due to deterioration of the timber components and in fact the zipwire has been taken out of commission following the H&S inspection. The playground is a valued feature of our village and the Parish Council have applied for a grant to replace some of the equipment and had agreement in principle. The current stage of the process is to consult with the village to obtain information on usage and types of equipment that would be preferable and you have seen the recent communication and our members canvassing opinion. It is our intention to replace the zipwire as we have received overwhelming support for this attraction!

**The Masons Arms Asset of Community Value.** The Parish Council applied for The Masons Arms to be considered as an “Asset of Community Value” following the expiry of the previous agreement. This was once again agreed by the Communities and Funding Advisory Panel and renewed until 2027 under the Community Right to Bid.

**Jubilee Memorial Planting on the Recreation Field.** With the many events of the jubilee this year, we were very pleased to collaborate with PiB to plant the Jubilee Canopy over at the Recreation Field and I’m sure that PiB will provide further detail.

**Supporting Flood alleviation initiatives.** This year we played a part in supporting the various initiatives to reduce the effect of flooding in the village and especially by the bridge at Broad Marston; thanks to Alastair and many other people that have invested much time in flooding matters.

## **Objectives**

The aforementioned items are some of the achievements of the last year, some of which are ongoing, however I would like to speak about the key objectives and some of the initiatives that the Parish Council are focussed on.

From our various discussions with the village members, we believe the following to be important to the parishioners and therefore should be reflected in our objectives, they are:

- **Safety & Security.** This includes addressing the speeding issues on the main routes in and out of the village. The council have placed an order for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) with a delivery date imminent, which shall be placed in various locations around the village on a rotation basis. The VAS is a radar activated device and warns of over speeding as vehicles approach it. In terms of security around the village, we are monitoring the occasional issues of anti social behaviour and contacting the Rural Police team as appropriate and whilst we do not have any authority in this regard, we shall support complaints of such incidents.
- **Connecting with Parishioners.** With a diverse range of age groups in the village, we are reviewing our methods of communication with a view to embracing digital platforms such as Facebook. Of course, we will continue to post our notices in hard copy format and engage directly with parishioners through conversation and meetings. Now that the new build properties at Meon Gardens (Sims metal site) are being occupied, we have initiated communication with some of the residents and the with the adjacent Meon Vale group. It should be considered that the Meon Gardens site is part of the Pebworth Parish and we therefore have a responsibility to our new parishioners.
- **Planning & Amenities.** The Parish Council receive many planning applications for review and we continue to ensure that the needs of the parish are served and the applications are in accordance with the adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Through public consultation we shall continue to maintain and improve the village amenities such as the play areas, allotments and the general upkeep of the Parish Council Assets.
- **Support to Village Groups.** The council is committed to supporting the various groups for the good and benefit of the village and its residents, and especially this year with support to the Platinum Party group.

I trust that you recognise the support that the Parish Council provides to the village and please continue to advise us of your concerns and offer ideas as you see fit.

Thank you to all parishioners who support us and we look forward to maintaining the quality of our wonderful village.

**CLlr Richard Weller**  
**Chairman Pebworth Parish Council**