



UPPER ARLEY PARISH COUNCIL – NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to send you a copy of the Council's Annual Report for the last financial year. Details of how the funds available to the Council were spent are on the reverse page.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

It's been an eventful year again since my last report in April 2022. The year commenced on a happy note and the Parish Council was pleased to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June 2022 to Sunday 5th June 2022 and to provide a commemorative coin for every child aged 16 and under in the Parish. We also arranged for the planters in the village to be planted up in the red, white and blue colours of the Royal Standard. Grants were made to help residents with their arrangements to celebrate the occasion.

The Parish Council has held ten meetings during the course of this municipal year and in September was saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the September meeting was cancelled in accordance with Local Government guidelines as a period of national mourning took place between 8 September 2022 and the State Funeral on 19 September 2022. On a happier note, the Coronation of King Charles III took place on the 6th May 2023 and we have purchased a Coronation mug for each child aged 16 years and under in the Parish to commemorate the event.

During the last year we made donations to Alveley First Responders, Wyre Forest First Responders and the Poppy Appeal.

We also approved grants to the Friends of Upper Arley Primary School and Arley Memorial Hall. Once again, we did not increase the Parish precept element of the Council Tax.

The Parish Council has continued with the agreement with The Harbour Public House, whereby members of the public can use their toilet facilities during opening hours 11.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. for which the Council pays a grant to cover their additional costs. The Parish Council has provided signage in the village to make visitors aware of this arrangement. The Parish Council has been advised that it is the intention of the District Council to demolish the old toilet block (which is in their ownership). The Parish Council is continuing with the contract to empty the litterbins with support from Arley Estates and a grant from Wyre Forest District Council. We also continue with the Lengthsman Scheme and the Parish Footpaths Scheme with grants from Worcestershire County Council.

We are currently in the process of having a survey conducted on the streetlights in Shatterford and Arley Village for which we are responsible.

There is a Policing Charter in place (the Parish Council contributed to a recent survey in June 2022) and the Parish Council is asked to provide our local Policing Team with up to three priorities for the Parish on a quarterly basis. If you wish to have any input in this, please let us know. In 2015 the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Police provided Smartwater for every property in the Parish. So, if you have moved into the Parish since then and would like to receive a Smartwater kit, please let the Clerk know and she will arrange for the Police to deliver one to you.

Contact details for your Councillors and Parish Clerk are on the website and noticeboards. We look forward to continuing our work to support the local community as we move through 2023.

Clr Graham Rickhuss - Chairman to Upper Arley Parish Council 2022-2023

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and are invited to give their views or raise issues during Public Question Time. Please see the notice boards and website for the details of each meeting, some meetings are held at Shatterford, some at Pound Green and some at Arley Memorial Hall. Contact the Clerk for more information.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023

Arley Village Ward: John Lawley, Tracey Lawley (Vice Chairman) and Tony Potter. Pound Green Ward: Louise Woolgar (until August 2022) and Jeff Middleton (until October 2022) Howard Link and Stephen McLachlan (from October 2022). Shatterford Ward: Graham Rickhuss (Chairman), Susan Rickhuss and Lucy Snodgrass.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024

(following the uncontested election on the 4th May 2023)
Arley Village Ward: Tracey Lawley (Vice Chairman), John Lawley and Lucy Snodgrass
Pound Green Ward: Stephen McLachlan, Ian Latimer (co-opted), one seat available for co-option
Shatterford Ward: Graham Rickhuss (Chairman), Howard Link, and Susan Rickhuss

Parish Clerk - Mrs Angela Preece, 33 Peacock Hill, Alveley, WV15 6JX. Tel 07572 108924 email:arleyclerk@gmail.com

The Council's website can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish and follow the links to Upper Arley Parish Council. Look out for our Facebook page.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A summary of the accounts for the 2022-2023 financial year is shown overleaf. Upper Arley Parish Council did not increase its precept for the 2023-2024 financial year.

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III SOUVENIR MUGS

The Parish Council purchased a Coronation mug for each child aged 16 years and under living in the Parish to commemorate the event. If there are any children who have not received a mug or if you wish to purchase a mug (cost £6.50) please contact the Parish Clerk.

POLICE OFFICER NUMBERS HIT HISTORIC HIGH IN WEST MERCIA



A record number of Police Officers, 2494 in total, are now serving in West Mercia, as Officer numbers hit new highs. Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion has supported West Mercia Police's Chief Constable to not only meet the Government's uplift target for West Mercia but exceed it. Your

Police Force now has a headcount of 2494 Officers, with Officer numbers increasing by 508 since the PCC was first elected in 2016. A further boost to Officer numbers will happen in this financial year, with an additional 40 Officers recruited to create new community crime fighting teams. The PCC is committed to ensuring Police Officers are accessible and visible in your community, tackling the issues that matter to you.