



Chair's Report 2022 -2023

As our community emerged from the COVID pandemic, and those restrictions that it imposed, we saw a re-emergence of community events, with charities and volunteer groups doing what they do best to bring people together, and this Parish Council has been in the thick of supporting those events, from purchasing the Christmas Tree, helping with Church funds, the Platinum Jubilee, to the recent King's Coronation, through grant applications and direct volunteering.

We have also introduced better governance to ensure our policies and procedures meet the legal requirements and this included the provision of ongoing training on specific matters such as 'being a Good Councillor', Code of Conduct, Media and more specialist training for those taking the position of Chair. All of which have helped us to make those key decisions from Planning, Budgets and other mandatory duties. The key person behind this has been our Clerk & Financial Officer – Sandra Morrison, as not only does Sandra continue to keep her finger on the pulse with changes/updates/planning/comms, but she has also been a great support to me during my time as Chair, so thank you.

Following the election, forming part of our democratic constitution, this council now welcomes 4 new members, to further bolster positive diversity, new ideas and ways on how we can continue serving this Parish as volunteers, and I very much welcome new Parish Councillors; Ashlea North, Jo Denton, John Miles and Philip Warry to the Forum.

During this period some members made the decision not to stand or were not voted back in, as a result of the election outcome, and I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Justine Sangwin, Susan King, Vicky Kress and Ward Councillor Leo Hammond for their support over the past 12 months and beyond.

The Parish Council has managed to continue with a full complement of 9 councillors, supported by a very experienced and seasoned Clerk/Financial Officer; makes for a very good start to the next period. Remembering of course, our obligations under the Code of Conduct and the Civility & Respect Pledge we have signed up to, plays a vital part in working together to focus on looking outward.

In closing, and remembering that we are all volunteers, some of which have a great deal of commitments having busy lives as parents/carers, holding employment and in some cases; are involved with other great voluntary work, all contributes to a forward looking Parish Council.

Paul D Rigby
Chair, BWPC

Thursday 18 May 2023