

CHARLTON-ON-OTMOOR PARISH ANNUAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR - APRIL 2022-MARCH 2023

The Parish Council is again very grateful for the parish clerk Samantha Hatwell during the past year, with difficult times under Covid 19 restrictions. Also, for being the Council's active point of contact for the various organisations, and local authorities.

Year 2022 to 2023

The past year as with recent years has given us all difficult times living with the aftermath Covid 19, whilst some a level of normality is returning the numbers of affection is still high, thankfully not as life threatening as it was two years ago.

The community spirit has continued to be active during the last year and we thank those who have organised events in the community and our hard working vicar leading on many of them, all very much appreciated by the community.

Christmas 2022

The village residents came together again with wonderful display of Christmas lights to supplement the nativity and seasonal displays that was featured on the local radio and newsprint. Our thanks again to our local vicar Lisa for the planning and passing on her energy to others so Christmas 2022 can be remembered with some joy. A thank you from the Parish Council thank all those that contributed to the displays and joined in to give the village a festive atmosphere to remember.

Planning and Village Development

The Parish Council received planning applications to comment on, as last year most of which relate to tree works in the conservation area, plus some small extension to existing properties.

Allotments

The take up of allotments is still popular and at the time of writing there are two plots vacant, should anyone wish to take one, then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Dogs Fouling Footpaths and Grass Verges

Dogs fouling the footpaths, and grass verges continues to be cause for complaint from people in the village.

The Parish Council acknowledge a vast majority of the dog owners are very diligent in cleaning up, it is just a few that are fault.

Not cleaning up after your dog and proper disposal a very anti-social act, as well as a health hazard, for which the offenders can be fined.

Local Flooding

The Parish Council continue to lobby the County Council for a solution to the local flooding, particularly at the Oddington crossroads, unfortunately it maybe several years of lobbying before it is resolved. Its has got as far as working group of interested parties being formed.

Playing Field and Playground Project

The popularity of the Playing Field and Playground continues.

A new Group has been formed to pick up and continue with the Playground project including fundraising and planning for the new equipment and Parish Council look to the community to give them their support.

The new group will be sharing their early proposals later in this meeting, taking into consideration the feedback received after a recent online survey which was very positive.

Speed Limit in the Village

The Parish Council have registered for a 20mph speed limit within the village and wait in the queue for it to be implemented in the near future.

Finance

The Parish precept for 2023-2024 has increased by a small amount, however with the rate of inflation the council spending will require some careful management to maintain the same level of services.

Our thanks go to those villagers who help with grass, and hedge maintenance, without their participation the precept would need to be higher.

Old Cemetery

As in previous years the Parish Council would like again to thank Eric Cooper for continuing with his tending loving care he gives to the old cemetery, as always, a delightful sight through spring to early summer.

New Cemetery

Spring and summer there was a delightful display of wildflowers, although the bee orchids were again a little disappointing from previous displays. The Parish Council extend thanks to the individuals who help with the "housekeeping" in the new cemetery.

The Crown

The Crown has reduced opening hours in line with economic trading. The Parish Council hope that the hours will increase, this can only happen if the villagers use it during these quiet times. It is noted to be a very warm and friendly pub to visit with a welcoming atmosphere, so please use and support it.

Parking On Pavements and Grass Verges

Parking on pavements has improved slightly and is still a cause of complaint. Pavements are there for pedestrians, obstruction from parked cars cause problems for people in wheelchairs, and those with youngsters in prams or pushchairs.

All the Parish Council asks is when parking; please consider others who use the paths and roads. If you have off road parking, please use it.

Village Community Works by Others

The Parish Council wish to thank all those individuals who carry various “housekeeping” tasks around the village, from grass cutting to litter picking, especially the team of youngsters who got involved with the litter picking. The parish council very much appreciate the individuals who have tasked themselves with the regular removal of rubbish and litter from the ditches, and the individual who carried out the “weeding” to the roadside gutters throughout the village.

Parish Council WEB Site

The Parish Council WEB site is continuously being updated and can be viewed on www.coopc.co.uk.

Finally

I would like to thank the other councillors and parish residents for their support during the past 12 months.

Bryn Walker

Chairman
Charlton-on-Otmoor Parish Council