

Wall Parish Council

Chair's Annual Report 25/26

It has been another positive and productive year for the Parish Council, and I would like to thank councillors, staff and volunteers for the time and commitment they continue to give to our community.

During the year we were pleased to welcome two new Parish Councillors. Both have settled in quickly and are already making a valuable and constructive contribution to the work of the Council.

We have taken steps to ensure our governance and employment arrangements remain up to date. The Clerk's salary has been brought into line with national terms and conditions, ensuring compliance with sector guidance and recognising the importance of the role.

A new Parish Council website has been launched and is fully compliant with government transparency requirements. Alongside this, a dedicated Clerk's email address has been introduced to provide a clear and direct route for residents to contact the Council.

The Parish trees require inspection every three years for insurance and health & safety purposes. The trees were inspected in December and some necessary works highlighted.

As the parish lies within a conservation area, permission was required for all proposed tree works. The necessary applications were submitted and consent has now been granted. A tree surgeon has been appointed to carry out the approved works, including those to the Coronation Beech, ensuring the continued safe management of these important parish assets.

The Council has also been pleased to support and be involved in community activities. We were delighted to play a part in the Village Hall fundraising efforts for the Gents Toilets upgrade and to take part in the VE Day celebrations, both of which demonstrated the strong community spirit within the parish.

Like many organisations, the Council continues to face rising costs. In order to maintain services and meet our responsibilities, the Council agreed a 10% increase to the precept. As the parish precept is relatively small, this represents only a modest increase in real terms for households, but helps ensure the Council can continue to deliver its services and maintain parish assets responsibly.

The Council also agreed to remove the July Parish Council meeting from the calendar to help ease the workload on councillors during a particularly busy time for families and the farming community.

As always, the Council remains committed to serving residents and working collaboratively to support and improve our parish.