

Drinkstone Parish Council

Report to the Annual Village Meeting Dated 5 June 2023.

During the last 12 months or so we have welcomed a few new faces to the Parish Council and said goodbye to others.

Cllr Lambert joined last summer replacing Cllr Emily Elnaugh, and Michael Walton took up the reins as Clerk from Jane Hill. Then, as we ended the 4 year term we said goodbye to Cllrs Moss, Lambert and Holborn, and at the last Parish Council meeting we welcomed Cllrs Robinson and Turner to the team.

The Parish Council aided by its army of willing volunteers continued its good work over the past year looking after footpaths and maintaining some of the village assets. Many tonnes of woodchip help maintain the best walking surface possible in the worst of weather and many miles of mowing keeps the paths open in the summer.

The railings at Blacksmith's Corner (repainted in 2021) were washed down and gutters cleared ready for last winter. And the rotten wooden posts and rails to the bridge over the river Bourne were replaced with new.

The daffodils planted in 2021 heralded the arrival of spring and Welcome Gates were installed to two of the village's approach roads. Goal posts on the cricket were repainted using left over paint from Blacksmith's Corner.

The Parish Council land on Rattlesden Road has found a new tenant and (as always with the help of volunteers) the dilapidated hedge at the southern end has been replaced with new.

We trust these efforts enhance the appearance of the village for both its residents and visitors alike and the Parish Council does indeed on occasions receive notes of appreciation to that effect.

We are blessed to have a village with many well supported organisations such as the Wren Charity, the Allotment Committee, the PPC, Drinkstone War Memorial Institute (AKA Village Hall), Educational Trust... and jointly we have staged two celebration events in the last 12 months (Queens Jubilee, and Coronation) and also a Cost of Living Information Fayre.

The background work never ends, inspecting the defibrillator, inspections of the cricket, servicing the speed displays, and coordinating the village response on planning matters and highway matters such as damaged signs and pot holes.

Sound financial management leaves the closing balance (31 March 2023) of the PC's funds slightly higher than the opening balance as of 1 April 2022.

We will shortly be publishing our aims for the next term and hope to extend our initiatives to an even wider audience. We thank you all for your support to us.

Prepared by Cllr Paul Selvey