



Chiseldon Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022-2023

As always seems the case, the 2022-23 municipal year has passed in the blink of an eye. The council has been very active in working with Borough Councillors on significant issues in the Parish. Specifically, we took an active role in participating in the planning appeal mounted by a haulage company against enforcement action surrounding their use of land on Wroughton Airfield. The appeal failed with the company being given fifteen months to quit using the site and return it to its former state. The comments and complaints around the poor state of the roads in the Parish has also been a top priority with the council working closely with Borough Councillors Jenny Jefferies and Lawrence Elliott to achieve resurfacing of the New Road and Hodson Road. Work is now planned to replace the road surfaces over summer to avoid disruption to school buses.

As always, the public are welcome to attend and watch all council meetings in person. At the beginning of each meeting, there is a short public recess where members of the public can raise issues directly with the relevant committee. Disappointingly, these sessions are rarely used, even though they are the method in which the public can hold the council to account or raise important issues with councillors. I therefore ask that if there is a burning issue, this is raised with the council directly using these sessions or via the clerk who can, at the very least, guide you on how to make your voice better heard. Even better, there are often councillor vacancies on the council where you can help influence the overall strategy and goals of the organisation, so why not join in?

Turning to the council itself; the 4th May 2023 saw the four-yearly election. This was, again disappointingly, uncontested with only seven of the councillor seats being allocated. This means that there are, at the time of writing, eight vacancies open on the council. If you are interested in joining the council as a councillor, please contact the clerk at the earliest opportunity to discuss what is involved and how to apply.

In terms of Chairmanship, after four years at the helm and seven years as councillor, I feel it's time to stand aside and allow someone else to bring something new and exciting to the table. I hope to remain close to the council and help in any way I can.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the councillors and committee chairmen for their hard work, support and dedication throughout 2022/23. Clair Wilkinson our Clerk and Nina Hempstock our Responsible Financial Officer both deserve a special shout out for organising the coronation event this year and for the many hours of work they've put in to help make Chiseldon Parish Council a strong and well-run organisation.

Our various committee chairmen will submit separate reports on the progress of each committee's work.



Into 2023/2024!

The 2023/2024 municipal year will probably be one of change; a number of councillors have stood down and certainly things will be difficult in the short term as numbers rebuild. I leave the council in a good place as I hand the baton to my successor and I wish the new Chairman every success in the role.

As always, if there's anything you feel that the council can do to improve the parish, please do get in touch with our clerk. Where a request falls within the remit of the council, we'll ask one of our committees to investigate what we can do. Where it's not within our remit, we'll endeavour to put you in touch with the organisation best placed to help.

Cllr Matt Harris
Chairman 2022/2023