

## Chairmans Report 2025

I always say that writing my Chairmans report feels like Groundhog Day as so often we have been unable to progress any of the projects we are undertaking. Unfortunately, it is often a very tedious and long, drawn-out process negotiating red tape and ensuring we are spending your money wisely.

I am pleased that this year we do have some positive news.

Due to the dissatisfaction with the standards of grass cutting undertaken by Bucks Council last year we made the decision to take on the grass cutting ourselves. It is of course a more expensive option, but we are already seeing good results. We are using the same contractor we use for the village green and churchyard and have received positive feedback from the village.

A Defibrillator has been purchased and is sited on the wall outside the Cricket Club. Since the school closed the nearest defibrillator was on the Venture Park at the gatehouse. We are currently looking at getting some training organised for villagers and willing volunteers.

We undertook our usual Christmas meal for the Senior residents of the village and had a great meal at the Lion in Waddesdon. We also organised an afternoon tea in April which was also well attended. Thank you to those who made cakes for us and to the lovely volunteers who came along to serve and wash up.

April was a busy month as we also had our annual litter pick and general clean up. The bus shelter was washed and vegetation cleared, the verges cleared of litter and low hanging branches were removed from the trees on the verge opposite Burnham Road to improve vision round the bend and to enable our contractor to cut the grass more easily. Thanks to everyone who attended and special thanks to Charlie Connor and Megan for their tree cutting skills..

The village green enhancements have now been completed. There were a few hiccups along the way, not least when our contractor pulled out a week before the start date we had agreed meaning we had to start the whole tender process again. A big thank you to Decorare who undertook the work of putting in the posts and planting the trees. Thank you to Jo Hooper for undertaking the design and project management. We are regularly watering the trees and bushes as the weather has been so dry. Volunteers are welcome to assist.

The War graves are now being regularly cleaned and weeded by Councillor Lacey. Thank you Sue for your hard work on this.

We have a brand-new website. The old one was unfortunately getting outdated and a bit clunky! Thanks to Jo Hooper for organising, it and thanks to Mandy for writing all the policies! We are

required to publish certain information to ensure we are compliant and transparent in what we do. You will find all the minutes from past Council meetings and much more. Please have a look. It is there for you to see what we do.

The five councillors who stood for Westcott Parish Council seats at the recent elections were elected unopposed as all seats were not filled. With seven Parish Council seats we need a couple of people to step up and assist us. If you would like to be considered for the role, please email the Chairman or speak to any of the current Councillors to find out more about the role.

We need Community Champions. If you don't feel you can become a Councillor how about volunteering with us. If everyone just did one small thing in the village we could achieve so much more.

We have been elected for another four years, and we need to know what you want to happen in your village. If you have looked at the agenda you will see that we will be having reports from local interested parties and after that you have the chance to tell us what you think and hopefully put your name down to help us out with some projects.

I have popped some headings up on the flip chart with ideas for projects that have been suggested or that we are already undertaking.

Now I need to do some thank you's.

Thanks to the Cricket Club for providing our venue.

Thank you to my fellow Councillors (few though we are). It is a rewarding job when we achieve positive things for the village.

Finally, a big thank you to our new clerk Mandy who had a baptism of fire and was thrown in the deep end when our previous clerk moved on. Thankfully she swam instead of sinking under the weight of the paperwork. I guess we can shortly stop calling her our new clerk as she will have managed to negotiate her way through a whole years' worth of obstacles.

Cllr S. Pusey

Chair of Westcott Parish Council