

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

As usual it's been a busy year and many of the same items and problems keep cropping up including speeding, litter, and overgrown vegetation. We always seem to be trying to maintain just about everything in the Parish and it always seem to take a very large amount of time!

We said goodbye to two councillors this last year Murray Graham and Karl Rolfe but gave a big welcome to John Poole and Ray Hudson who have taken up their positions with great enthusiasm which is most welcome. And in the last two weeks we have also said goodbye to District Councillor, Caroline Newton, who stepped down at the May Election and welcome our new DC Georgina Heritage.

Our Clerk has created a handbook for new councillors which sets out their roles and responsibilities and explains the how the parish council works.

Planning applications have been numerous, seemingly more than many other years; and it would seem that the number of residents creating larger homes for themselves is a sign that more residents wish to stay in the Parish.

The Summix proposals for the new town called Harrington resurrected themselves and have created a lot of discussion and opposition within South Oxfordshire. Duncan Boulton and I attended a presentation at the Doubletree Oxford Belfry by JTP architects. It was noted that there were a huge number present who were linked with the project rather than local residents.

Following their short presentation to LPC last February, Solar 2 were made to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before which LPC held an emergency meeting in the extreme heat last summer to put together their comments. Thank you to all the residents who turned up with their thoughts and comments. As yet, there has been no formal application.

The parish council – with the help of Oxfordshire County Council – planted a tree in Postcombe last summer on the corner of Salt Lane to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (along with a plaque). Thank you to Margaret Poole and Gillian Boulton for watering it so well, it's thriving in spite of last summer's drought.

Like so many other councils in the UK, our September meeting was cancelled due to the death of HM The Queen. We were able to quickly create a space in St Margaret's for reflection and signing the book of condolence. The book will be kept by the parish council as part of the parish's history.

We had some good ideas for Postcombe residents on ways to improve the parish. Using both CIL money and a grant from South Oxfordshire District council, the parish council bought a marquee and lights for social events, a "Tommy" statue for Postcombe and a new bench which is now installed on the grass area at the end of Box Tree Lane.

The parish council also bought two new benches for the playground using some of its CIL funds plus another grant from South Oxfordshire District Council. And using money from Oxfordshire County Council's CIL budget, we got new village gates installed around the parish, Vehicle Activated Speed signs in South Weston and Postcombe and new flower tubs at the entrance to Lewknor village. Thank you Emma Mears who is maintaining these for the parish.

Lewknor PC organised the annual litter pick at the beginning of March and a huge number of bags of rubbish was collected in both villages. Many thanks to all the residents who gave their time.

I'd finally just like to say a big thank you to our Clerk, Barbara, who has (as she always does) kept us up to date with everything she understands is important to the functioning of Lewknor PC.

Caroline Hjorth