

Charlcombe Parish Council

Chair's Annual Report 2022/2023

Prepared by Councillor Hilary Macklin for the Annual Meeting of Charlcombe Parish Council to be held on 9th May 2023

Charlcombe Parish Council (CPC) has had another busy and successful year holding six meetings, three in the Lansdown and Langridge village hall and, in the colder months, three in St Stephen's Centre, Lansdown Road. In addition, the PC held an Annual Meeting for residents in May 2022 to which all residents of Charlcombe Parish were invited to attend. Talks during the evening included the work of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and residents had the opportunity to view pictures of some of the Wardens' projects showcasing the range and diversity of their work in the parish. Also on view were the parish council records dating back to CPC's formation in 1894. A similar event will be organised for 2023.

Planning

During the year, CPC considered 22 applications compared to 13 in the previous 12 months. Of these nine planning applications were supported, three were supported with observations, three observations were submitted and seven applications were objected to (four of these relate to Waterworks Cottage). Five applications for tree work were considered with three supported and two supported with observations. One traffic notice was supported with observations.

Governance

The PC joined an internal audit scheme, organised by ALCA, and was audited by Flax Bouton PC with our clerk auditing Kenn PC. This has proved to be a successful way of auditing and gives the clerks an opportunity to exchange best practice. The small cost incurred is considered to be cost effective.

Improvement to steps behind St Mary's Church, Charlcombe

The work to improve the path behind St Mary's Church by adding a number of steps and handrails, which was paid for by a Ward Councillor's grant, is now complete. The path is now useable for most of the year allowing local people to enjoy this attractive walk safely.

Parish Footpaths

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have continued to maintain the footpaths in the parish along with a considerable amount of other improvements and maintenance and in recognition of their outstanding service CPC gave a donation of £250.

Highways

The PC alerted BANES that it was still concerned about the dangerous Lansdown Lane/Lansdown Junction despite additional signage being in place. This is under review. The PC was pleased to see that the 20mph speed restriction has been implemented in Langridge Lane and other local roads. It is hoped that this will reduce the potential for a serious incident in these narrow lanes.

Notice Boards

After a great deal of planning and organising, new notice boards were erected this year in Langridge, Woolley and Upper Weston. The new boards are an excellent way for residents and visitors to see useful information and parish news. We are very grateful to the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens for

their help in assembling and installing the noticeboards and it is hoped that the sturdy new boards will last for many years.

Website

The CPC website continues to provide useful information for residents and visitors which includes routes for local walks, environmental issues and relevant local issues.

Outgoing and New Councillors

The Parish Council is very sorry to lose two highly experienced councillors this year, Cllr Bridget Howard and Cllr Rachel Jarai. They have both given a great deal of time to parish matters and their expertise and commitment will be greatly missed. Following the council election in May, a new Cllr will join the PC, Donald McIntyre and, in addition, Julian Nash will be co-opted onto the PC completing the complement of seven councillors.

Summary

Charlcombe Parish Council works hard to ensure that every planning application has been carefully considered taking into account the needs of the applicant, the residents and the environment. The Parish Council continues to be ably supported by our highly efficient clerk, Rosemary Kerr, and we are indebted to her for her efficiency and diligence.

I would finally like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, all volunteers, who are committed to supporting and protecting the parish of Charlcombe.

Hilary Macklin

Chair, Charlcombe Parish Council

May 2023