

# **Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting of Winnersh Parish Council**

## **Introduction**

Firstly, I would like to thank all my fellow councillors and the staff at the Parish Council for their support and assistance given over the past 12 months in what has been a year of many changes, but we managed our way through this with a great team effort.

We started the year under new leadership of Linda Wooldridge, sadly her time as Chair was cut short due to ill health, so I must thank her for her time as a Councillor and her leadership. Paul Fishwick kindly took the reins before I was voted in to take over the chairmanship.

In addition to losing Linda from the council, this year has seen both Clinton Taylor and Kanagarajah Bradeepan (Brad) step down during the year and Shaun Hanna who left at the last elections. I must thank them all for their efforts and involvement in the Parish over the years.

We welcomed our new Parish Clerk earlier this year, we convinced Marcia Milsom to return to the Parish, having previously been Assistant Clerk a few years previous. I must at this point thank both Kerry Simpson and Joanne Yeomans for their sterling work to plug the gap between the previous clerk's departure and Marcia's arrival.

I will now highlight some of the work that the councillors and staff have put into running the services provided by the Parish Council.

## **Full Council**

Chair Cllr David Green, Vice Chair Cllr Paul Fishwick

Full Council including the Annual Meeting of the Council has met 11 times during the municipal year and has a number of Working Groups and Standing Committees that provide reports to Full Council.

## **Climate Change Emergency Working Group**

The Climate Change Working Group under the lead of Cllr Fishwick has continued to work on the Action Plan key achievements include the following:

Wildflower sowing on the Hatch Farm bund line.

Enhancing the usage of the existing solar power generation by adding battery storage and Immersion diverter, to use spare energy to heat the stored water.

Additionally, we connected the Allnatt Pavilion to the community centre, to utilise the solar power generation and save costs on standing charges.

We have recently overhauled the solar panels to ensure that we can maximise on its generation potential.

### **Winnersh Summer Fete**

The Summer fete continues to be a great success, the June weather was mostly kind to us, and the “Winnersh Games” in the arena proved a great success and I must thank Cllr Paul Fishwick for his great ability the herd cats. As always, this event would never happen without the effort of Cllr John Southgate and his band of volunteers, so big thanks to all involved.

### **Winnersh Sustainable Transport Group**

Following on from the Parish Council adoption of Winnersh and Winnersh Triangle Stations on the Winnersh Sustainable Transport Group has continued to work partnership with South Western Railway and The Community Rail partnership to better the facilities.

The installation of artwork on the platforms at both stations has been seen as a welcome addition to the waiting shelters.

Additional projects have been put forward by the Parish Council which are being considered by the Community Rail partnership and South Western Railway/Network Rail.

The Winnersh Community Speed watch has been fully approved, members of the speed watch team have been trained and several checks have been carried out. I must thank the active members for their efforts to improve speed awareness and observation in the Parish.

### **Planning Committee**

Chairman Cllr Taylor, Vice Chairman Cllr Fishwick

Planning Committee moved back to face-to-face meetings this year, and has met 12 times over the year. In addition to the normal planning requests the committee deal worked on and submitted comments on:

- Studio developments on Winnersh Triangle
- Aldi Supermarket
- Telecoms Mast deployment on Hatch Farm Way.
- Winnersh Farm outline plans for 260+ houses

Additionally, Cllr Geoff Harper attended a WBC planning meeting to represent our concerns over a specific planning amendment that was having a negative effect on some Winnersh homeowners.

### **Recreation and Amenities**

Chair Cllr Harper, Vice Chair Cllr Hanna

The Recreation and Amenities Committee has met 10 times over the year.

The committee underwent some chairmanship changes throughout the year, Cllr Wooldridge stepping down after 3 years of Chairman. Cllr Hanna took over the lead until Cllr Harper kindly offer to step into the role.

The committee has been busy planning and working through the project for the financial year. Key activities and achievements include:

- Installation of new blinds throughout the buildings Community Centre yet to be installed.
- Continues management and maintenance of the play facilities.
- Planning the toilet facilities upgrades in the Community Centre.
- Path refurbishment.

Additionally, the committee has continued to work with Berkshire Youth to implement a successful youth club facility at Rainbow Park Community Centre.

R&A continue to oversee the Winnersh Allotments, building on previous years success since the move to the new location.

### **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Chair Cllr John Southgate, Vice Chair Cllr David Green.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee has met quarterly throughout the year.

The main role of this committee is to oversee the finance of the council, make grant donations to local charities that assist Winnersh residents and review policies and procedures.

The committee has supported grant requests for the following.

- Wokingham CAB
- Community transport
- Wokingham Job Support Club
- Link Visiting Scheme

The committee also ensures that the parish finances are in order, carrying out detailed reviews quarterly.

To turn all the committee discussions and agreements into action we have a great team in place. Led by Marcia, Joanne Yeomans manages the community engagement and bookings along with many other tasks and Kerry Simpson has taken over the general management of the Parish finances. I must thank both Kerry and Joanne for getting the Parish through our annual audit, which was a great success.

Now as we enter a new year, I wish a warm welcome to the new parish councillors and congratulate those who returned to council after a very rare parish election.

So, once again thank you for your support over the past 12 months and I look forward to working with you all over the next municipal year.

**Councillor David Green, Chair of Winnersh Parish Council**