

Chairman's Report to APM 2024

Good evening and a very warm welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting, it's lovely to see so many gathered here and I'm looking forward to hearing about the activities of the groups that you represent over the last 12 months. As usual we will have individual reports from the various Chairman of the Council's committees and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each report, receive any other comments and suggestions.

It has been a busy year for the Council completing major projects started last year: including the replacement of the play equipment at Ridings road which opened officially in February during half term. I am delighted to say that it has attracted many positive and appreciative comments – the kids seem to like it as well! The tennis courts project was completed a few weeks ago in time for the lovely bank holiday weather that we have just enjoyed. The official opening for this will be during the afternoon of 8th June further details will be available on our website and Facebook shortly.

Other enhancements to the Park have been completed, the potholes in the carpark have been repaired and new lighting also has been installed. We have recently consulted the village about proposals for a pathway at the Park and we will be working closely with stakeholders at the Park to move this project forward.

We continue as a Council to act upon climate change and the environment by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' producing a document which influences everything that we do as Council and pledges to support change in the community through education and other means.

The Council also completed the consultation on South Gloucester Council's Local Plan which is a very important document as it will influence not just the building of more housing but also planning for jobs and the local economy whilst reducing environmental impact.

The alterations to the entrance of the Centenary Field have been completed so that all being well the Frampton Festival can resume this year. Excavations continue in the Centenary field to establish a pond for wildlife, which will have a highly beneficial impact upon biodiversity.

The Parish Council annual Community Awards was held last month, this was a great success so much so we had to move to a bigger venue at the Miners club in Coalpit Heath. There was a strong showing in sports related groups and individuals with the Cricket club taking the group achievement award, in what will be their Centenary year and the President of FC RFC, Nick Knight taking the lifetime achievement award, all winners and pictures of the event are to be found on our website.

Through the Council's Youth provider FACE we continue to run Youth Clubs and Out Reach sessions, partially funded by Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Parish Council and Winterbourne Parish Council, - a big thank you to them, a Youth café also operates out of the Pavilion currently and we now have closer links to other Youth

organisations due to this and also when the Explorer Scouts relocated to the pavilion during the refurbishment of the Mafeking Hall.

Going forward we are looking at improving the other play areas in the parish and now that the covenants have been altered at the Park we can also make plans for improving the pavilion, but always in consultation with stakeholders and parishioners. We do of course continue with our usual activities and events, from an anti-dog poo campaign to Carols around the Christmas tree together with working closely with our community partners. Many thanks to you all for your hard work, it is much appreciated, and also to our staff and Councillors, thank you.

On a Final note the Council are holding a D-day event on the evening of the 6th June 2024..