

# Westoning Parish Council

## Annual Report for 2022 - 2023

During the past year the Council was lead by Andy Rayment in the chair, Joyce Nethersole as Vice Chair, Caroline Luff, Brenda Rogerson, Ekta Bhasin, Elaine Russell, Natasha McLoughlan, Paul Ellis, and Philip Kelly Your Parish Council has continued its program of seeking to improve the fabric and look of the village.

This year the roadway at the entrance to the Recreation Club was resurfaced, resulting in a great improvement. Planters were also put into 4 areas of the village to bring colour into the village. Up to 6 more planters will be positioned during this year. The pavements at the top of Church Road were quite uneven and have now been resurfaced. Numerous potholes have been filled in but this is an un-ending task. Several parts of the village had double yellow lines installed to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of accidents.

The main project for the current year will be to select a location for a new burial ground as God's Acre is now completely filled for burials, although it still can accommodate burials of ashes.

Your Council organised a Christmas event in late November when the lights on the tree were switched on. There was a good attendance and the children seemed to enjoy the evening. In view of the increase in the cost of electricity, it was decided not to run a Christmas lighting competition but many households continued to decorate their homes regardless.

Two members of the Council resigned during the year, Emma Leftly and Ray Botterell. Natasha McLoughlan joined the Council in the Autumn. The council was short of one member for the rest of the year.

Westoning Parish Council took the decision not to increase its Council Tax Charge in the 2023 - 2024 year to reduce slightly the burden of tax on our residents. This decision was followed by Central Bedfordshire Council, but charges for all other services (Police, ??) were all increased.

Westoning Parish Council continues to meet in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month and residents are welcome to come to our meeting to observe or to bring issues to the Council's attention.