

Westoning Parish Council

Annual Report for 2023 – 2024

During the past year the Council was led by Joyce Nethersole in the chair, Ekta Bhasin as Vice Chair, Andy Rayment, Caroline Luff, Brenda Rogerson, Elaine Russell, Natasha McLoughlan, Paul Ellis and Philip Kelly. At the beginning of the year the Council was short of one member, however, Yinka Omishore joined the Council in the Summer.

Your Parish Council has continued its programme of seeking to improve the fabric and appearance of the village.

A further five planters have been placed in areas around the village to bring colour into the village and a further planter has been donated to Westoning Lower School for the children to grow their own flowers. In liaison with Central Bedfordshire Council numerous pot holes have been filled but this is an ongoing task. Consideration is being given to additional double yellow lines in the village to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of accidents.

Your Council organised a Christmas event in late November when the lights on the Christmas tree were switched on. There was a good attendance and the children enjoyed seeing Father Christmas. An afternoon tea for senior citizens was held in December. There was music and dancing and a good time was had by all.

Westoning Parish Council took the decision to increase its Council Tax Charge by 2.16% which is below the current rate of inflation. Council expenditure continues to include village grass cutting, lighting including maintenance, play area maintenance and inspections and green infrastructure costs.

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 full for burials although it can still accommodate burials of ashes. There are two locations which may be possibilities and which the Council are considering.

There is currently a defibrillator located on the clock tower and another one is to be placed outside the village hall. Organisations using the hall have been asked for donations and the Parish Council will contribute towards the balance. The Parish Council are in the process of organising free training sessions on how to confidently use them.

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