

# WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT for the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## Ian Watson

Wrentham is a parish of around 1,000 people, 500 dwellings and has a precept of £18,277 (2022/23)

**Community Support** during the year included the following:

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee** – In recognition of the Queens 75 years of dedicated service, a BBQ party was held at the village hall on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Food, drinks and ice creams were provided, partly funded by a donation from WPC. A big thank you on behalf of the community to Vice chair, Lucinda Hutson, Rosie Carter, councillor Lindsay Hanger, Rita Perry and the other volunteers for organising a very well attended and successful event. Part of the celebrations included a torch relay which passed through the village on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- **Litter pick**- We again had around 30 local volunteers at our autumn and Spring litter picks, and currently have Daisy Knights and Lilli Sunman as volunteers under the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs** – Mark Buxton researched and presented options for two new solar powered VAS signs, which were approved and purchased in February 2023.
- **Christmas Tree** – We thanked councillor Trevor Oram of Wrentham Christmas Trees for his kind donation of a Christmas tree and councillor Roger Middleditch for erecting the tree.

### Finance

- **Receipts were £53,686 (including CIL of £32,306) and Payments £32,618.**
- **Village Hall** – The Parish Council donated **£14,310** in 2023. Dr Nigel Drane as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee with his dedicated team continue to upgrade the village hall infrastructure, including £8,185 for Phase I and II drain repairs. I would like to thank Maureen Reeves for her continued support as treasurer.
- **CIL and Section 106 money** – The fund closed the year at £34,575. This includes the first of 3 instalments of £32k from the Chapel Road Development. Public consultation is ongoing, looking for relevant projects to fund.

### Councillors

- We have 13 seats and potentially 2 vacancies. We thanked Fran D'Alcorn who stepped down during the year and welcomed Paul Wren as a new councillor who was co-opted on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- Councillors David Reeves and Trevor Oram have not put themselves up for re-election. David has served some 38 years as a Parish Councillor, many of them as chairman and was a key figure in building the village hall and then actively serving on the Village Hall committee. Trevor (Owner of Wrentham Christmas Trees) has taken an active role in the maintenance and upkeep of the Village. We thank them both for their service.

### Conclusion and thanks

The work of the Parish Council is voluntary, and a team effort and I would like to thank all our councillors for putting something back into the community, our Vice Chair Lucinda Hutson and our Parish Clerk Frances Bullard for their support during the year. I would also like to recognise the regular attendance and support from our district councillor Norman Brooks.