

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT for the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 15th April 2024

Ian Watson

Wrentham is a parish of around 1,000 people, 590 dwellings and has a precept of £18,388 (2023/24)

Community Support during the year included the following:

- **Kings Coronation** – A BBQ celebration was held at the village hall on Sunday 7th May 2023. 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, and the other volunteers for organising a very well attended and successful event.
- **Flood Warnings** – 2 flood warnings were issued on Friday 20th October 2023 (Storm Babet) and Sunday 18th February 2024. Although no flooding occurred, the local community are concerned. The PC have been proactive in chasing up the environment agency to dredge the riverbed downstream of the village. A fallen tree was also removed.
- **Litter pick**- Our autumn litter pick was cancelled due to bad weather. A big thank you to the 23 volunteers helped with the Spring litter pick.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs** – Councillors Mark Buxton and Simon Forder installed our two new solar powered VAS signs.

Finance

- **Receipts were £25,346 and Payments £25,292**
- **Village Hall** – The Parish Council donated **£6,677** in 2024. Dr Nigel Drane as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee with his dedicated team continue to upgrade the village hall infrastructure. I would like to thank Maureen Reeves for her continued support as treasurer.
- **CIL and Section 106 money** – The fund closed the year at £32,919. Following a community consultation, projects have been identified and will be commenced in 2024/2025.

Councillors

- We have 13 seats and 2 vacancies. In May 2023 all 11 councillors were re-elected in an uncontested election.
- Two previous team members passed away during the year, Fran D'Alcorn (ex councillor) and Angela Day (ex clerk) Both greatly contributed to our local community and will be sadly missed.

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 Paul Ashton.