

CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2024

Welcome to our yearly report. Firstly, my thanks to our new member of the Parish council Loz Elphick who as proved to be a valued member having won the election last year. Loz has thrown himself into the role, undertaking inspections around the village, supporting his fellow Councillor's, and has brought a wealth of experience from his previous role of Police Officer. Thank you Loz from your fellow councillors and the people who voted for you at last year's election.

We continue to hold our bi monthly meeting in the Village Hall, taking place on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Please feel free to come along and discuss any issues that concern you.

I must say the Town Lane Orchard is looking splendid in full bloom. Steve Edwards, myself and my friend Gill spent a couple of hours pruning the trees and I must say it has paid off. Hopefully we will get a good crop of fruit that will benefit your residents come autumn. You are all welcome to help yourselves when the fruit is ready for picking. We could do with volunteers to trim round the base of the trees so the goodness goes into the tree not the grass. Please contact our Clerk Alan Whittaker if you can help.

Small planning applications have been approved. Unfortunately, we lost our fight to preserve the derelict house at the junction of Park Hall Road and Wood Lane. Demolition is now taking place and a 3 story office block will be erected on the site along with multiple parking spaces. The Council are assured it will be sympathetic to the ethos of the village, fingers crossed.

The play equipment is continually being used by village children and the local play group. We have carried out minor repairs, replaced the bark and topped up the sand pit ready for the summer.

The Parish Council had put monies aside to hold a Christmas Party for our elderly residents in lieu of a celebration for the Kings Coronation. This was welcomed by residents and was a great success with entertainment by Kevin Langshaw and delicious food by our own resident Liz Thompson.

The Parish Precept has been increased. We average it out so this means a band D property will pay £39.94 per annum which equates to just £2.63, more this year. We need to retain a healthy budget of around £4,000. We anticipated a considerable amount of monies we needed to spend to remove a tree dangerously overhanging from the Town Lane field onto Town Lane. This has now been completed.

Our two lenthmen, John Wayne and John Donald continue to keep our village clean and litter free come rain or shine. I would like to say a big thank you to you both on behalf of our residents. You are very much appreciated.

I would like to personally say a big thank you to my fellow Councillors, Mather, Lloyd, Forshaw, Singh and of course our new member Loz Elphic, for their continued support. A special thanks to Councillor Singh. His technical skills are invaluable in maintaining and updating our website.

Many, many thanks to our Clerk Alan Whittaker who has been doing this job for the last 43 years with unwavering commitment and dedication. His experience of liaising with various agencies and sourcing best value is to be commended. He is the "go to" person not only for the Parish Council but for anyone who needs his help and advice.

Last but by no means least, on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank you the residents of Heskin for your support of the position we hold. May we continue to serve you to the best of our ability in the years ahead. We are here to help with any concerns you may have and remember we are only a phone call away.

Angela Bamber (Chair)