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Churchdown Parish Council Chairman's report for the year May 2022 to May 2023

The Parish Council began the year with some vacancies but benefitted from one co-option.

Since my last report the staff in the office has not been immune from illness and the Council is grateful to staff who have managed to keep the offices fully functioning.

The two committees of the Parish Council, namely the Finance and Administration committee and the Communities committee have both met regularly throughout the year and should be congratulated on their work. These will report separately. A number of working groups have also been meeting during the year to address specific aspects of the Council's work.

The year was dominated by two major national events. These were the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the death of her Majesty.

The Council celebrated the Platinum Jubilee by organising a major event at Churchdown Park. This involved many different individual features including a brass band and bouncy castles along with the lighting of a beacon by former councillor Pearl Stokes. The event was advertised on radio Gloucester by a short slot on the day of the event broadcast from the park by an interview with the Chairman. The event was well attended by Parishioners and thanks need to be recorded to those involved in the running and organising of the event.

The death of Her Majesty was observed by the Council who followed the tradition of flying the Union Jack at half-mast.

To mark the accession to the throne of King Charles III, the Declaration was read outside the Council Offices by the Chairman to a crowd of around one hundred parishioners. The Declaration was then followed by a short religious part involving a reading and prayers followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

The Council has organised events throughout the year. To mention just a couple. A circus visited in November and was set up on Churchdown Park. Also in the summer coach trips were organised to Barry Island. Both events were well attended.

Following a 'return to relative normality' following the Covid epidemic the Council was able to arrange its traditional Xmas gathering for those people from the village who have contributed to village life. This was the first time in three years it has been possible to run such an event. It was held in the CCA and was a time of food and conversation.

One major event which has been impacting the village this year is the construction of the cycleway along Cheltenham Road East. While representatives from the Council have had contact with the contractors to try to alleviate impacts this project has caused major traffic problems and continues to do so. On a lighter side perhaps it has enable motorists to practise their use of mini roundabouts which have been installed at the Hare and Hounds

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crossroads. A further roadway project which caused traffic problems was the closure of the bridge on the road to Badge worth. This was completed slightly ahead of time at the end of November.

The Parish Council has continued to pursue its policy of awarding grants to institutions within the village to those who apply. As well as this annual scheme this year the Parish Council in response to events set up its own Warm Spaces Grants scheme. To those institutions which applied awards of £500 were given if criteria were met. This scheme ran from November until into the New Year.

The Parish Council has continued its support of Churchdown Library through the Service Level Agreement which provides a grant of £20000/year to help with maintaining the library as a valuable asset for Churchdown village.

The Parish Council through its various committees has continued to examine planning applications submitted for projects within the boundaries of Churchdown village. For those applications where the parish Council considers a project to be undesirable it has lodged under allowed material planning objections.

The Parish Council has throughout the year received reports from its representatives on external bodies, Namely the CCA, Staverton Airport and the GAPTC. (See separate report) Thanks go to those Parish Councillors who have represented the council on these bodies.

The Parish Council at its Full Council meetings has received reports from its County Councillor, Ben Evans, about matters which have been impacting on Churchdown village. Further regular reports have been given by our Tewkesbury Borough Councillors which have kept the council up to date with matters affecting Churchdown village.

Thanks go to our County Councillor and Borough Councillors for their work.

Following the work of the Youth Working Group the project to provide youth facilities in the village resulted in the setting up of youth facilities on two nights/week initially at different locations in the village. This involved both internal and outreach provision.

The work to apply for part of the S 106 monies has continued through the year and involved a meeting with the other party who could bid for the monies together with a representative from TBC.

Looking to the future a working group has been formed to examine the procurement of a van for the council employees to carry out their tasks around the village.

Alan Porter

Chairman of Churchdown Parish Council