

WOODSETTS PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Monthly meetings of the Parish Council take place in the Village Hall until such a time as the Pavilion is made fit for purpose. Meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of the month starting at 7.00. Please follow any altered timings on social media

A public session is held at the beginning of the meeting thereby giving residents an opportunity to attend and raise any issues of concern to Councillors. There is also the opportunity for residents to remain throughout the meeting as observers.

Only 4 candidates stood for election for 9 seats. All 4 were therefore elected, these being: Monica Carroll; Judith Sherratt; Nicki Renzi and Phillip Clarke.

Ian Waterhouse and Thomas Varghese stood for co-option soon afterwards and were duly appointed following due process.

Phillip resigned mid-year due to ill health. Thomas also had to resign for personal reasons.

The Parish Council welcomed Barry Bartles and Steve Tindle who applied to join the Council as co-optees and were successful. They are already making positive contributions to the Council.

The Playground is now complete and is a source of pleasure to many children and their parents throughout the area. In using the playground children are learning many skills including: sharing, co-operating, personal development, social skills, and many others.

Nigel Brookes, the village gardener has played a major part in improving the appearance of our village. The wooden planters are an attractive addition and the flower beds, grass verges, and other green spaces are kept well manicured. Nigel ensures that the Playground is kept free of weeds and has overseen the felling of unnecessary overgrowth and saplings. Nigel has excelled himself once again and the Parish Council is very grateful for his contribution to the Village. Thank you Nigel!

Many thanks to the team of volunteers who do a regular litter pick, leaving grass verges free from items thrown from cars and tipping by unscrupulous individuals. This hard-working team put themselves at risk to ensure that Woodsetts is seen as a clean place in which to live. Why not volunteer to join them?

The Council is grateful to Councillor Sherratt who has led on the environment and biodiversity aspect of the village, ably assisted by councillor Renzi.

Thanks also go to Councillor Renzi and team who organised a very successful Bonfire and Fireworks evening. It is always a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the event. There was a record crowd which created some traffic problems. This will be addressed for this year's event.

The sinking areas on Worksop Road and the crumbling of the road at the bottom of Grange Ave are causes of concern. These issues will be incorporated into the Woodsetts Road Improvement Plan scheduled for July. Unfortunately, this scheme has been reduced in size due to a lack of funding and the Gildingwells Road section of the plan will not now take place. This is very disappointing to the Parish Council who first began discussion on the scheme at least 5 years ago.

The privately owned areas around the shops are urgently in need of repair, and the Parish Council, acting as a mediator, has successfully negotiated with the owners to fund a resurfacing of the area.

The Parish Council is still receiving regular complaints about dog fouling on pavements and public footpaths. In an effort to educate a minority of dog owners who still insist on not picking up, the Parish Council has purchased a Dog Bag Dispenser which will be trialled in the village and moved to different locations. This is to encourage owners who may have 'forgotten' a dog bag to pick up. There are a number of dog poo bins throughout the village and the Parish Council is monitoring locations with a view to adding to these should the need arise.

V.E. Day on May 8th will be celebrated by the lighting of the beacon on the Recreation ground at 9.30 as part of a nationwide acknowledgement of the significance of this anniversary. Royal Guidance is being followed regarding the lighting of the Beacon

Work began on the Cricket Square last year and the Cricket Club enjoyed their first game of the season recently.

The Pavilion Project. A consultation day was held by the Parish Council on March 8th 2024 and this completed the round of Consultations held throughout 2023. The Council is now ready to move forward with the project, having taken the views of the village on board, it has met the architects again and requested that they make every effort to descale the specification in order to reduce the cost of the refurbishment. In the meantime, the Council will begin the process of seeking funding by applying for a loan and contacting grant funding bodies. It will also seek advice from other Parish Councils who have already been successful.

Brian Smyth will continue in his role as Clerk. Brian has been with the Council for 10 years and he has managed the finances and the Council in a very professional manner. The Council is grateful for his service, support, and advice. Matthew Wade has been appointed as Assistant Clerk and Brian is currently supporting Matthew with his CiLCA training with a view to a succession plan in the next year or so.

The Parish Council welcomes Cup and Co. to the Village; it has become a community hub and a source of pleasure for so many people.
It also welcomes Hardwick Hounds which is providing a much needed service to those who are dog owners in the village and beyond.
The Butchers Arms is open again and is ably managed by a team who care about the village and its residents.
The Council hopes that all businesses will continue to receive the support they are currently enjoying.

Woodsetts Neighbourhood Watch Group has decided to fold due to a lack of support. Jill Holden held the unenviable role of Chair of the group for many years and the Village owes her and the other officers a great deal of gratitude for their achievements over the years. Jill successfully sought and found funding for the 9 CCTV cameras sited throughout the village, she developed a band of volunteers who keep the approaches to the village litter free, and she had a hotline to the Police in the event of any crimes. Thank you, Jill.

We are all so fortunate to live in such a beautiful village. We all benefit from the voluntary work done by so few. The Parish Council is appealing to members of the public to support existing groups and to create new ones.

The Parish Council looks forward to the coming year with enthusiasm and anticipation as it works with and for the parishioners.

Monica Carroll MBE

Chair of Woodsetts Parish Council