

Annual Parish Meeting 9 May 2023
Combroke Parish Council
2022-23 Annual Report of the Chair

Meetings and Administration

We held 5 scheduled meetings of the Parish Council in 2022-23. We also convened 1 extraordinary meeting in the Summer, to enable the Parish Council to complete the requirements for End of Year Financial Administration 2021 - 22 within the required timescales.

Our meetings are well attended by our Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors. We have been pleased to welcome residents to meetings, observe, ask questions and make comments and also one or two residents who have wished to describe and answers queries on their submitted planning applications and which have been most helpful.

We continue to receive really helpful feedback from residents about the displays in the Village Hall to coincide with planning consultations to enable interested residents to find out about matters even if they cannot attend meetings.

Environs

We appreciate the good level of support the village enjoys from the District Teams and County Teams... ..*The Streetscene Team* for the grass cut around the village verges; *the leaf and debris kerb sweepers* -who make a special effort with all the leaf fall at the bottom end of the village; and *the very prompt removal of fly tipping*. Thanks also to the *always helpful teams on the refuse/recycle and new food bin collections*.

We were pleased to meet our new Highways Locality Officer, last Summer and show him round the village. It was a great opportunity to discuss one or two potholes and so on. He quickly spotted a wonky kerbstone and asked if he could interrupt our progress to make a call -the kerbstone was repaired within the week! and other jobs noted and completed by the end of the month. We feel very well supported by our *Locality Manager and the Teams* who attend to highways maintenance over the year - we've had a number of potholes and some drainage issues addressed over this year - as well as the little things that matter - flushing the gullies, ensuring the grit bins are replenished for winter, and keeping the grass verge at the Fosse well trimmed in the summer..

And many thanks to those *behind the scenes teams* whose work involves support to our village.

Thanks must be recorded to our local landowners who keep their paths open, and accessible; and hedges trimmed.

Planning

The Parish Council continues to be regularly engaged with Planning Consultations of one sort or another. And last year was probably a record number with six across one month. The majority of residents' planning application's have been thoughtfully perceived and appropriately managed. We have been in contact with a number of Planning Officers at the District Council who have been most helpful providing advice and confirming policy interpretations.

Finance

With prudent management, we have kept our spend largely within the expected income. We are none the less subject to rising costs in the current economic climate. With one or two, previously vacant, properties under new ownership this year we carried out a detailed analysis of the tax base in January to raise the precept (the money allocated from Council Tax) for upcoming 2023-24 by 2 % .

The Leys - Fostering Our Heritage

Our Local Wildlife Site is evermore **relevant with the current** agenda to take action on climate and biodiversity.

We were delighted, and a little surprised, to find a new resident asleep when the South Warwickshire Barn Owl Survey team arrived in February to check the owl box and kindly carry out repairs. Fingers crossed now for the summer visit ~perhaps we *might* have some young ones too!

The Leys is looking lovely right now and we hope it provides pleasure both for residents and the many walkers striding its footpaths.

Not to mention the dogs! ~and thanks to their diligent owners carrying their clear up bags ~Well Done!

He are hoping to establish a project this year with Warwick Wildlife Trust to support our butterfly numbers and also diversity. Watch this space!

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed or got involved with the Leys in one way or another.

Thanks also to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, South Warwickshire Barn Owl Survey Team, WCC Ecology Services and other agencies for their ongoing support and encouragement.



And Finally A big thank you to all the Parish, District and County Councillors, and many others who have given their time and energy so generously to maintain and improve the life of the Parish.

The Parish Council, and the Chair in particular, wouldn't survive without the ongoing hard work of our Clerk, Georgina Lowe. Thank you Gina!

As always, as Chair I have been grateful for the unfailing support I have received from the whole Parish Council Team -they are great! -Thank You! And many thanks also to those many residents who have encouraged us to keep doing what we do.

THANK YOU

Brenda Rayson
Chair (May 2022-23)