

Chearsley Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Introduction

The Annual Chearsley Village Meeting provided an opportunity for the Parish Council to reflect on the past year and to update residents on current priorities and future plans.

The Village Meeting is not a formal Parish Council meeting; however, as hosts, the Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to provide a brief overview of its work before hearing from the many community organisations that contribute so much to village life.

Council Transition and First Year

The current Council—comprising Karen, Carol, Simon, Sheepy and the Chairman—has now been in post for approximately ten months. Taking over from a well-established and experienced group of councillors has been both exciting and challenging.

A key focus during this initial period has been to maintain the strong foundations laid by previous councillors while developing a deeper understanding of the village's needs and the responsibilities associated with the role.

Role and Responsibilities of the Parish Council

The Parish Council continues to oversee a broad range of local matters, including:

- Reviewing and responding to planning applications
- Maintaining hedges, verges, and other village assets
- Monitoring traffic and road safety concerns
- Managing budgets funded through council tax
- Representing the views of residents to Buckinghamshire Council
- Acting as a general advocate for village interests

In practice, the Parish Council serves as a focal point for addressing local issues and supporting the day-to-day wellbeing of the community.

Key Priorities

1. Shaping the Future of the Village

Ensuring that Chearsley has a strong and effective voice in future development will be essential. This is particularly important in the context of the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan and the development of the Chearsley Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Protecting Village Character and Heritage

The Council remains committed to preserving the unique character of the village. This includes:

- Continuing efforts to protect sunken lanes and verges, including the installation of kerbing where appropriate
- Ongoing maintenance of trees and hedgerows
- Exploring opportunities for additional planting to enhance the local environment

Residents are encouraged to share any ideas or suggestions that could support these initiatives.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to place on record its sincere thanks to the outgoing councillors (Class of 2025) and to the officers who remain in post. Their continued support, guidance, and willingness to share their experience over the past year has been invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Conclusion

The Parish Council remains committed to serving the community and working collaboratively with residents and local organisations to support the continued success and vitality of Chearsley.