**The Duntisbourne Parish Council**

**Chairs Annual Report May 2023 to April 2024.**

It is with pleasure I present this report to the meeting. It is the first full year of the new Parish Council which was returned in a non-contested election on Thursday May 4th 2023 for a period of 4 years. We held 6 meetings through the year.

**The Duntisbourne Councillors:**

There are Five Councillors: Jane Edwards - Chair, Rupert Lane - Vice Chair, Andy Beckett , Michael Lowe, Julian Weston .

For Electoral purposes Duntisbourne Rouse (which includes Middle Duntisbourne) is a separate Parish Council **Duntisbourne Rouse PC .**

However, we meet as one body sharing a meeting venue and AGM and a combined Precept.

**Duntisbourne Rouse PC** is represented by Councillors, Valerie Dyson and Samantha Scott White.

There are currently 241 electors in the Parish, this number is reduced from 246 the previous year.

The PC is supported by County Councillor Joe Harris and re-elected District Councillor Julia Judd.

 During the year we received the resignation of our Clerk Belinda Holder. Councillors thanked Belinda for all her work and wished her well for the future.

 **Finance**

In November we finalized our budget for 2024/25 with a reduction of 10.34% in the precept. This equates to a band D property as payment of £41.56.

This reflects an expected reduction to budget expenditure following the clerks last wage payment to 19/9 /23. At the time of setting the budget precept we fully expected to recruit a new clerk on increased hours of 4 possibly 5 hrs per week. However, despite extensive advertising the position is still vacant. If you or anyone you know, may be interested in this post, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Chair or any Parish Councillor.

Council donated our accrued CIL accrued monies to the VH for much needed repairs to and the roof. (C.I.L stands for Community Infrastructure Levy, a charge levied against planning applications to be applied where the overall floor area is over 100 square metres.) Anything over is calculated at £85.00 a metre the PC receive a contribution of 15%. Total for the years 2021, 2022, 2023; Duntisbourne PC received £1120.

This is to be spent on a project which supports residents. Councillors discussed the current situation of the Village Hall and awarded the CIL money to the VH repairs. The Council received a reply from VH committee expressing appreciation for the award.

RFO Valerie Dyson was appointed as Responsible Finance Officer. The AGAR Report for 2023-2024 will be presented at the May AGM for Councillors to consider and Chair to sign if approved.

Other payments to The Duntisbourne PCC after Council received new guidance and amended legislation to the Government Act 1894. This was passed through Parliament at the end of December 2023. Thus, enabling Parish Councils to fund church repairs or improvements. Levelling up and regeneration Act 2023. Council awarded £ 250 for previous year and increased payment to £300 for 2024-2025.

**Planning**: The PC is a statutory consultee, and we receive applications via CDC.
DPC continues to consider every planning application and environmental matters with a balanced approach. Considering the criteria which CDC follows e.g. Local Plan and National NPPF. The CDC takes our comments into consideration when determining a planning application. Guidance list on ‘Material’ and ‘Non’ material reasons can be viewed on our website Duntisbourne Voice.

The PC does not make an actual decision on any planning applications; it is the planning officers’ role. This year has again been particularly busy with14 applications.

**Policies.**

The DPC adopted the Government Biodiversity Plan at our November meeting.

**Events:**

**Coronation of King Charles III.**

To celebrate the Coronation the community enjoyed a splendid street tea party held in Duntisbourne Abbots.

Duntisbourne Rouse and Middle Duntisbourne gathered to celebrate with a community tea at Manor Farm.

November was a busy month; we celebrated with Councillor Jamie Eykyn on his 50 years as a Parish Councillor in our VH, a splendid occasion.

**Highways issues:** There have been continuing incidents with lorries damaging walls; numerous potholes and the Long Ford repairs remain unresolved. Previous repairs have deteriorated, and the retaining bank has part collapsed.

The Council encourages residents to also report highways issues on the CDC website. It is easy to use, and action will be taken. Please report them on ‘Fix My Street’. It is worth pointing out that the more reports Highways receive the quicker a repair is prioritised.

The Council have liaised with the Fly Tipping Officer, signs were provided and have been effective in discouraging Fly Tipping incidents.

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The PC is pleased to support the Village Hall and its committee, they should be congratulated for all the recent work and effort involved in the refurbishment.

 Neighbourhood Watch continues to be well supported by residents, our thanks to the Co-ordinator.

Lastly there are many residents who support our communities in a variety of voluntary ways, for example cutting of Village Greens, clearing culverts, maintenance and repairs; going that extra mile thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

The Duntisbournes Village Web site – The Duntisbournes’ (Voice online communities) is coordinated and maintained by a resident and we are very grateful for this continued support.

Looking forward to new projects; notice board for Middle Duntisbourne; traffic calming measures Ealy Hill. Further ideas for future projects are always welcomed from residents.

The Parish Council usually meet on the fourth Tuesday in May, (possibly June), September, November and March. Residents are always welcome to attend.

J R Edwards

Chair: Duntisbourne Parish Council