**Chair: Annual report May24th 2023**

**Duntisbourne Parish Council**

It is with pleasure that I present this report.

**Meetings:-**

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council we met on 6 occasions including an extraordinary meeting.

**Queen Elizabeth** **11**. The PC convened at the village hall on September 8th, 2022, we subsequently received sad news of Queen Elizabeth’s passing. Councillors felt it would be inappropriate to proceed and the meeting was adjourned as a mark of respect. A minute's silence was observed and prayer and thoughts shared, in honour of Queen Elizabeth’s long service to her people, both here in The United Kingdom, to the people of the Commonwealth and the World.

**Councillors. 2022 -2023 (5)**

Duntisbourne Abbots, Chair **-**Jane Edwards, Vice Chair Rupert Lane.

Eamonn Cuthbert,Jamie Eykyn, Julian Weston.

Duntisbourne Rouse Councillors **(2)** Richard Bliss and Valerie Dyson.

In September we were very sorry to receive the resignation of Councillor Richard Bliss who served as Councillor for Duntisbourne Rouse for several years .

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Richard for his service to the PC, always a knowledgeable and measured voice who will be missed. We send Richard and family every good wish for the future.

We are fortunate to have a new Councillor,Samanatha Scott White representing Duntisbourne Rouse, we look forward to working with Samantha as a member of the team.

**Parish Elections**.

As you are aware Parish council elections were held recently on May 4th 2023.

Councillor Eamonn Cuthbert and Councillor Jamie Eykyn,decided not to seek nomination for another 4 year term.

I know you would wish to join me in thanking them for their service to the community. Eamonn served the residents in Ealy Hill in a measured and calm manner often showing insight and able to see the greater picture with difficult issues.

Jamie Eykyn has been involved since the conception of the Duntisbourne PC for 50 years, including 12 years as Chairman! This is a most remarkable contribution. He has considerable knowledge of the history of the village and presented a strong voice, often with a dash of humour, always very thorough,reliable and supportive. All good wishes for the future.

Nominations were received by CDC from Rupert Lane, Julian Weston, Andrew Beckett, Michael Lowe and Jane Edwards for Duntisbourne PC Council– 5 nominations for 5 places and therefore the election was uncontested and the above candidates were elected for a 4 year term.

**Duntisbourne Rouse** councillors.Valerie Dyson and Samantha Scott White uncontested election so the above candidates are elected to Duntisbourne Rouse PC.for a similar period of 4 years.

**District Council Election** contested election: Julia Judd was re-elected as district Councillor for Ermin Ward .

We look forward to working with Julia in the future as our District Councillor for Ermin Ward .

Also with Joe Harris our County Councillor and thank them both for their support this year.

**Finance.**

The budget meeting in November we increased or precept £8000 to cover our usual commitments e.g. Clerk RFO salary, Defibrillator maintenance, grass cutting, contributions to Village organisations and special events. Also to cover the proposed election charges for May election and future elections. It was considered important to increase our precept for unforeseen expenditure and build reserves .

Full accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability return transparency code can be viewed on our notice board and website .

Our Clerk and Responsible finance officer, Belinda Holder ensures the Council is run correctly in finance and matters of procedure our thanks for her continued support and professionalism.

**Planning**: The PC is a statutory consultee and we receive applications via the Clerk.

PC continues to consider every planning application and environmental matters with a balanced approach. Taking into account the criteria which CDC follows eg Local Plan and National NPPF. The CDC takes our comments into consideration when determining a planning application. The PC does not make an actual decision on any planning applications; it is the planning officers role. This year has been particularly busy with 18 applications.

**HIghways issues**. There have been continuing issues with lorries damaging local walls in all the Duntisbourne villages on a regular basis.

Some new signage in Duntisbourne Leer and Middle Duntisbourne has helped, however Lorries continue to follow their Sat Navs which are often outdated and unsuitable.

Highways repaired a long stretch of collapsed wall opposite the Grove in Abbots.

Highways recently repaired 20 major potholes in Duntisbourne Leer and Abbots.

**The Long Ford** is awaiting major culvert repair; currently protected by a cone and signage.Repair due this financial year.

The road to the Garage in Duntisbourne Abbots remains in a serious state of disrepair.

The Council encourages residents to also report highways issues on the CDC website. It is easy to use and action will be taken. 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.

Parish events . The PC supported both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the recent Coronation of King Charles 111 with contributions towards souvenir mugs to commemorate both occasions. A Coronation Street Party celebration

held at the VH was a colourful ,memorable occasion blessed with good weather, good company and a banquet of cakes!

**Looking forward.**

The local village emergency plan needs further updating with contact numbers and other information.

Highways have a map of all our culverts. A copy of this ‘map’ would be useful, so we could monitor pinch points. It is important that local knowledge is not lost. We have a councillor in each area of the villages. It would be invaluable to monitor each “Zone” alerting PC and Highways when issues occur. I know there are several people that keep their areas clear on a voluntary basis and it is much appreciated.

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 ways, for example cutting of Village Greens, clearing culverts and going the extra mile thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

Jane Edwards

Chair

Duntisbourne PC