

## **SHRIVENHAM PARISH ASSEMBLY Chairman's Report 2023**

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming to the 2023 Shrivenham Parish Assembly.

**The format – election regulations PC cannot appear to be supporting any candidates in the election. So no District Councillors reports and no County Councillor report .**

**Because, after consultation it was decided that a Conservative County Councillors report might be construed as showing support for one side in the District elections.**

It has not been easy making this report as this has probably been the most difficult year since I became Chairman.

First, I must mention the passing away of our assistant Clerk Julie Sarsons. Julie was the first person I employed when I became Chairman after the resignation of the then Chair and the walk-out of all the existing staff. Julie helped

me enormously in keeping the Council running and she continued to be an important part of the Council organisation until she was taken ill last year. We have been without her help for almost a year and, as we couldn't afford a replacement because of our financial commitments to Julie, our other members of staff have had to work even harder to keep everything going. And I would like to thank both Julia Evans and Lyn Frape for all their hard work and support, not only this year but throughout the past four years. Our biggest challenge has been the massive increase in energy costs from just over £4,000 per annum to over £10,000. As the news of this came too late for us to budget for it, we had to work very hard to find enough money to keep the Hall and the new Pavilion running.

We had one change in the composition of the Council during the past year and that was the resignation of Liz Jenkins due both to pressure of work and ill health. Here it is worth pointing out that the workload of Parish

Councillors continues to grow. It is much more demanding than when Bjorn and I became Parish Councillors 16 years ago. I do not know how today's Councillors manage to hold down a job, look after a family and work as Parish Councillors and it gets harder each year. Therefore, I would like to thank all my Councillors, including Liz, for all their hard work and dedication and to remind you that they do not get a penny for this voluntary work. Most do no even claim their expenses for using transport. In particular, I would like to thank David Pratt for his service to the Council, both as Clerk and then as a Councillor. Along with three other Councillors, he has not put himself up for re-election. His help and advice will be sorely missed.

From what I have already said, as well as finance the other main area of concern for the Parish Council over the past year has been Planning.

Julia Jones has continued to be Chair of the Planning Committee and she has assiduously dealt with the many

applications that keep coming in for extensions and major house alterations. There have been two major applications that we have worked on together and they have been the appeal on the application to build 26 houses south of Townsend Road. I had written our original objections and, so, I represented the village at the appeal. I am delighted to tell you that we have recently heard that the appeal was turned down. The other application is for the construction of a 68 bed care home off Townsend Road which has also gone to appeal. You may not have heard of this application and, given the need for some accommodation for elderly people that has been expressed in recent housing needs surveys, you may wonder why we opposed this application. Well, there is a need for some sheltered accommodation in the village and we have stressed to the proposers of this application that we would not oppose an application to build a small development of this kind on the site. This application is to build a large nursing home for people needing full-time

care. This would have a major impact on the medical support in the village. Elm Tree Surgery has already reached capacity with the developments we have had over the past years. To have to take on 68 elderly people requiring constant attention would be too much. What is also disturbing about the application is the lack of parking spaces. Only 18 spaces have been allocated for staff and visitors. Cars that cannot park at the home could not park in Townsend Road itself and would obviously use the streets to the north such as Colton, Cleycourt and Curtis Roads which is totally unacceptable. The date of the appeal is yet to be announced but we will attend and press our case for this application to be turned down. On your behalf, we will continue to try to prevent the village growing out of all proportion but fear for the worst with speculative developers still looking at possible sites on the periphery of the village. Indeed, in the last week we have heard of another attempt by Gladman to build on the fields to the north of the site already being developed on

Townsend Road. After vigorous opposition from this village, their previous attempt was turned down and I am in the process of preparing my response to this application at this moment.

As I said, the other matter that has been at the forefront of our work during the past year has been finance and the balancing of the budget. But more of that when I present the finance report following this introduction.

Last year I reported on the beginning of the project to build the Sports Pavilion and, as you now know, it has been completed and opened. I was delighted and, somewhat surprised to find myself officially opening the Pavilion. Initially I had arranged, through a contact to have a famous cricketer, Mark Ramprakash to open the pavilion. But that fell through when it wasn't ready on time. Then, I was hoping that my arrangements for the visit of the Princess Royal might include her doing the opening ceremony but, again, that was not to be. So, having run out of other ideas, I ended up having the

honour of opening it myself. And I must say what a wonderful building it is with the views from the large windows out across the Rec to St Andrew's Church. All we need now is more bookings to use it.

Your Councillors continue to work on projects that will be of benefit to the community. Speedwatch is now up and running very successfully. The group recently passed the landmark of 1000 vehicles logged and the latest figure is 1264 vehicles reported. Speeds of up to 59mph have been recorded in the 30mph zones and 36mph in the 20mph zones.

The restoration of Tuckmill Meadow continues through the excellent work of the Nan Pratt and the Friends of Tuckmill and after much pressure from the Parish Council, it has been announced that Earth Trust has been appointed on an interim consultancy contract to advise on the SSSI. A Management Agreement has been made with the Friends of Tuckmill and a substantial sum of money

**has been set aside from Section 106 money for future work on the site.**

**Other good news is that the Sustainable Hub has been opened in the High Street in the old Lloyds Bank building.**

**This has been a project which has had the support of the Council from the start and we wish it well for the future.**

**As you already know by now, there will be an uncontested election this year. We tried to encourage people from the village by using various means to advertise the need for new people to put themselves forward for election but only one person – Claire Winfield actually applied. This means that we now have a complement of 8 Councillors and will be looking for volunteers to go through the selection process to be appointed onto the Parish Council to bring the complement up to 11.**

**Richard Bartle**

**April 2023**

**Chairman, Shrivenham Parish Council**



## **SPC FINANCE REPORT**

**Income – down on the previous year because**

- 1. Administration income was massively lower this year as last year we received a grant towards the building of the Pavilion. We also did not cross charge VBT for the services of Julie Sarsons.**
- 2. The sports pavilion income from Sec 106 (that is money for the building of the pavilion) was down on the previous year as it came in instalments and there were only two months included in 2022/23. The main grant for the sports pavilion had been received in the previous year.**
- 3. S106 income was higher than the previous year; this was for the MUGA upgrade.**
- 4. All other operating income remained about the same as the previous year.**

**Expenditure – higher than the previous year because**

- 1. We continued to pay a staff member who was off ill.**
- 2. We supported village projects: a) Community Art, b) MUGA upgrade, c) New play equipment.**
- 3. We purchased speedwatch equipment, a new picnic bench in Coppidthorne meadow and a new water tank for the allotments.**
- 4. Sports pavilion expenditure was lower than the previous year because there were only two months in 2022/23**

**Reserves**

- 1. General reserve ended the year £8k down on the previous year**
- 2. BUT we did put £10k into EMR, where we are saving for a) the final sports pavilion payment, b) Village Maintenance, c) A Tree condition survey, d) election fees (some are still payable even though the election was uncontested), e) office equipment renewal.**

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**Shrivenham Parish Council**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2023**

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31st March 2022		31st March 2023
	<b>Income Summary</b>	
120,000	Precept Received	145,500
<b>120,000</b>	Sub Total	<b>145,500</b>
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
44,232	Administration	2,469
5,423	Village Upkeep	5,045
4,435	Burial Grounds	5,080
3,216	Allotments	3,143
215	Events	0
427,764	Sports Pavilion	94,104
28,138	Section 106	64,897
<b>633,423</b>	Total Income	<b>320,238</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
104,220	Administration	178,399
50	Section 137	100
40,050	General Grants	38,500
10,981	Village Upkeep	10,752
0	Burial Grounds	47
804	Allotments	1,222
279	Events	0
0	Capital Expenditure	823
447,548	Sports Pavilion	87,972
<b>603,932</b>	Total Expenditure	<b>317,813</b>
	<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
39,076	Opening Balance	42,283
633,423	Plus : Income for Year	320,238
672,498		362,522
603,932	Less : Expenditure for Year	317,813
68,566		44,708
26,283	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	10,151
<b>42,283</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>34,557</b>

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR - Defibrillator	0.00		0.00
321 EMR - S106 Playground	0.18		0.18
322 EMR Village Projects	3,800.00	-163.75	3,636.25
323 EMR - S106 Football Pitch	0.00		0.00
324 EMR - Elections	1,900.00	400.00	2,300.00
325 EMR - Sports Pavillion	6,272.12	6,233.97	12,506.09
326 EMR - S106 Tennis Club	0.00		0.00
327 EMR - S106 Bus Shelter	8,991.49	-94.00	8,897.49
328 EMR Chairmans Allowance	142.75		142.75
331 EMR - Car Park	0.00		0.00
332 EMR - Fire Safety	0.00		0.00
333 EMR Village Maintenance	3,583.91	6,000.00	9,583.91
335 EMR - Office/Admin Costs	1,635.00	630.00	2,265.00
336 EMR - VBT Rec Ground	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
337 EMR - Village Clock Maintenanc	500.00	-471.00	29.00
338 EMR - Cemetery Maintenance	200.00	450.00	650.00
339 EMR - VBT Hall Repairs	0.00		0.00
340 EMR - Allotment Maintenance	861.67		861.67
341 EMR - Neighbourhood Plan	0.00		0.00
342 EMR CIL Fund	0.00	2,737.09	2,737.09
343 EMR Community Art	17,600.00	-12,935.97	4,664.03
344 EMR Training & Recruitment	700.00	-200.00	500.00
345 EMR Website	0.00		0.00
346 EMR Weed Spraying	320.00	240.00	560.00
347 EMR Waste Collection	600.00		600.00
348 EMR S106 Muga	0.00	0.00	0.00
349 EMR RBS Software Contract	0.00	425.00	425.00
350 EMR Tree Survey	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
351 EMR Grass Cutting	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
352 EMR Allotment Water	0.00	450.00	450.00
353 EMR Capital Purchases	0.00	1,650.00	1,650.00
	<b>47,107.12</b>	<b>10,151.34</b>	<b>57,258.46</b>

## **SPC Priorities for 2023/24**

- 1. Implementation of 20mph speed limit in the village –  
priority 1**
- 2. Install new waste bin in Coppidthorne meadow –  
priority 1 or 2**
- 3. Install plot markers in cemetery – priority 1**
- 4. New gravel in parking area at cemetery – priority 1**
- 5. Cemetery audit and plan for future expansion –  
priority 1 or 2**
- 6. Paint railings at cemetery – priority 2**
- 7. Tree Condition Survey – priority 4 or 5 – to help  
manage our risks with regard to trees**
- 8. Consider purchasing a mobile SID to help with the  
speeding problem in the village – priority 4**
- 9. Develop a planting programme for more trees in  
Coppidthorne meadow – priority 5 or 6**