

## Appendix 1 – Winsham Parish Council Chairman’s Statement - April 2023

Here we are again, has the past year been one of newfound joy or continuing gloom – well it’s a bit of a mixed bag.

As ever I would like to thank all our (completely unpaid) councillors both past and present for dedicating themselves to improving Winsham for the good of all.

Our stalwart councillor Judith Hill had to withdraw from council activities for personal reasons last year and Chloe Adams has joined us to bridge the gap. Emma Pike also joined us for a brief spell.

So, what was the good bit of that mixed bag?

The long-awaited road safety improvement scheme was amalgamated with a government School Safety improvement scheme and following a dilution by popular demand, was implemented this past year. We now have a 20mph speed limit during school transit times and new road markings and signage.

Ahead of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its erection, the war memorial has been cleaning and re-lettered and repairs to the paving are about to commence.

A celebration to mark the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was enjoyed by all who attended in the appropriately named Jubilee Hall and the beacon shone brightly above Winsham.

The council intends to rejuvenate the lower rec soon and a considerable amount of time has been spent on the planning and costing of several options.

After many years the Resource centre (the band hut to many) had filled with a large amount of clutter. All users have verified their items and the waste has been disposed of to allow the community to fully utilise this valuable asset.

The Cemetery regulations have been updated to reflect the increase in the number of cremations and, along with the graveyard, safety tasks have been completed to address any overgrown shrubs and trees, provide additional plantings and have undertaken the infamous “topple test”.

We have (I say we but mainly Jonathon) have updated the risk management assessment which gives us far greater visibility of long-term investment requirements.

**Largely** due to County Council transition to a unitary authority a few areas have not moved forward even though a large amount of time and effort has been applied to them.

A single resident’s complaint to the police has stopped the completion of the Nature Area and all the hard work that so many people (including the local schoolchildren) had undertaken has been spoiled. The District Council has failed to undertake the required actions to remedy this.

The incomplete roadway outside Hazelwood Terrace (Balsom Close) has dragged on as the developer and highways fail to meet each other’s expectations of a solution.

The survey last year (at the council’s request) revealed that the Foul water drainage system beneath Church Street is in a very poor condition but the expenditure required of Highways is considerable and so remediation will not be as soon as we had hoped.

Last year I ended on the positive note of the upcoming Jubilee celebrations. This year we have the Coronation to look forward to – Long live the King.