PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

With the pandemic seemingly fading and life returning to normal, the year began celebrating in June the unique occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and what followed was the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, ending just recently with the coronation of our new King, Charles III.

The Platinum Jubilee Event was held in the field behind The Plough, who kindly gave us permission, and the village was invited to come together to join the celebration despite the weather deteriorating towards the end, in true British fashion, the celebrations were continued to be enjoyed by all.

The children's play area was once again drawn to the attention of everyone present, with a consultation from Mid Sussex District Council, and despite several follow-up meetings, not much progress has been made. However, we continue to persevere with our endeavour to see this vital area get the improvement upgrade that it deserves, and is long overdue.

Colin Trumble, Alison Bennett and Rodney Jackson had been our Mid Sussex District Council representatives in the past year, and my thanks to them for their support with the Parish Council.

At the recent elections however, boundary changes meant that Pyecombe was now in the newly formed 'Downland villages' ward for Mid Sussex District Council, and Geoff Zeidler is now fulfilling that position as our new representative.

The Parish Council meanwhile had an uncontested election where four members were duly elected, including our newest member, Ken Grocott. Sadly, Graham Bishop decided not to stand for re-election and my thanks to him for his time and past support.

Trials and tribulations regarding the yellow lines along London Road in the year since they were first installed have presented mixed views, and it seems that the jury is still out! Whilst removing long overstaying vehicles has proved problematic, this, together with the South Downs Way crossing on the A273 is something the Parish Council will continue to closely monitor in the months ahead.

Flooding at the bottom of Pyecombe Street was a concerning problem that residents had to endure for several weeks last year, whilst awaiting a drainage clearance, which in recent months has not seemed to have resolved the problem entirely. Recent conversations with West Sussex Highways have resulted in a review of the surrounding area to possibly install another drain. On this issue, we live in hope, and await their response!

Joy Dennis has been our West Sussex County Council representative and I thank her for the continued support and assistance with the Parish Council in the past year.

South Downs National Park continues to oversee all planning issues in Pyecombe, where there have been five planning applications during the year, to which the constructive views and observations of the Parish Council are submitted to South Downs National Park, who as always, has the final decision to determine the outcome.

The village project has continued to make steady progress and following a site visit, earlier this year, together with officers from South Downs National Park, recommendations were put forward to be included in our plan for the area adjacent to the BP garage, which also includes renovating the village sign. Having obtained further quotations, we should be able to submit to South Downs National Park shortly, to obtain approval and move forward.

Both the village website and newsletter, sponsored by the Parish Council, continue to keep residents informed, and my thanks to Tim and Jane Cullen, as Editors of the newsletter, for their valued contribution.

During the year we have seen the sad passing of longstanding residents in our village. Eric Farncombe and Vic Curd will be remembered with fond memories from friends and family.

Dawn Langston has been our Parish Clerk and RFO throughout the year, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the council and community, to thank her for the total dedication and commitment shown to us all over the past year.

My thanks also, to my fellow councillors, in our voluntary role, for their contribution and assistance in the past year.

I take the opportunity to welcome all new residents to our village and remind everyone that your Parish Council meets on a regular basis, every other month, where meetings are held alternatively both here at Wayfield Park Farmshop, and in Pyecombe Church, as a public meeting this remains open to all.

David Wilson
Chairman, Pyecombe Parish Council
17th May 2023.