

Welcome to the Annual Parish Council meeting for 2025.

The duties of the Parish Council Chairman are predominately to represent the Parish Council at formal and informal meetings and to chair the meetings of the Parish Council.

The Chairman also reports on the activities of the Council in the past year and outlines the plans for the future.

2024/ 2025 was both productive and busy.

The matters dealt with can be summarised as follows

1. Dealing with the lease on the 3Ms land.
2. Agreeing a plan for the Millenium Wood.
3. Agreeing improvements and safety measures for the pond in Pitt Lane.
4. Developing a feasibility plan for improvements to the Parish office building.

These are still ongoing and will be completed in the current year.

5. Organising the celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of D Day and a community day on the recreation ground. This included acquiring a beacon for the D Day celebrations and ensuring it was safely lit.
6. Giving support, by donation, to the coach outing to Weston Super Mare for residents.
7. Representing Bickenhill at many meetings with National Highways regarding the new A4545.
8. Improving security arrangements at the allotment on Elmdon Lane
9. Attending a site visit at HS2 to understand the impact on our parish.
10. Opposing the section 106 application by the airport regarding extending night flights.
11. Arranging for a survey of all trees under the control of the parish council.
12. Improving the parking facilities at the recreation ground
13. Donating to the maintenance of the churchyard at St Peter's Bickenhill.

These represent some of the activities during the year which are in addition to the regular projects such as the Remembrance Day Service, the Christmas lights and trees plus our involvement with HS2 and the Airport Consultative Committee, M42/J6 improvements and planning applications throughout the year.

Wayne Hadley left the Parish Council due to business commitments. We welcome Dave Fenlon as a new coopted councilor for the Marston Green Ward. Anne Clarke became a councilor in the year but resigned her position due to health issues. We wish both Wayne and Anne well for the future.

In March Nick and Tony, our ground staff, were given a certificate to acknowledge their long service. They are responsible for maintaining the areas for which the Parish Council are responsible. We thank them both for their continued support and hard work.

Our thanks also go to Wendy, our deputy clerk, for all that she does assisting our Parish Clerk.

Finally, we are indebted to Julie, the Parish Clerk, who manages the ever-growing diverse range of operations and who has the unenviable task of ensuring that we, as councilors, discharge our duties and comply with the many regulations for which we are accountable.

I personally wish to record the dedication from each councilor for their support to me throughout the year without whom nothing would function.

And thank you to Clive for drafting my speech.