



Annual Meeting of the Parish Friday 26th May 2023 – A Message from the Chair

Dear Residents,

As we gather for the Annual Meeting of the Parish, an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, and even a few of the challenges, of the past year.

The Highs!

- ✓ We received just under £10000 in National Lottery funding to commemorate royal events!
- ✓ In celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, we marked the occasion with -
 - A free event on the Recreation Ground, combined with the official playground opening by the MP and representatives of Clapham Playground Restoration.
 - A new circular seat was installed on the Recreation Ground.
 - Two new noticeboards, one for the Recreation Ground and one by the Common were purchased.
- ✓ Marigold Somerset planted the walnut tree on the Recreation Ground as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and the ceremony was recorded on the official map.
- ✓ We celebrated the King's Coronation this month with a free cream tea for residents and two new commemorative benches are on order to replace the existing ones.
- ✓ We are pleased to support our litter picking team, who keep the village free of rubbish, with particular thanks to Boaz Cornford who has gone above and beyond in his efforts and won appreciation across the parish. We are lucky to have you Boaz – thank you for all you do!
- ✓ The Parish Council is now at full strength with all five member positions filled.
- ✓ Those volunteers who help maintain the Recreation Ground – mowing, helping with the play equipment upkeep and replenishing the dog bags. Thank you to all who help us!

- ✓ The South Downs National Park adopted the Parish Design Statement and was full of praise and admiration for those who worked on it. Special thanks to Sally Morris as lead and to everyone involved as part of the Working Party.
- ✓ Residents came together to share their concerns over plans for the site of the Old Gravel Pit and our Clerk represented the Parish Council to speak on behalf of the residents at the Planning Committee in December. The application was refused.
- ✓ Smart new fencing and gates on the boundary with The Street.

Tricky Times!

For several months the Parish Council had insufficient members to meet and make decisions although work continued behind the scenes and, with the help of Arun District Council, we were soon back in action. Special thanks to Arun District Councillor Paul Bicknell who stepped in to make up the numbers as the vacant positions were filled by co-option.

The good news is that what was a tricky time has generated new interest in the work that we do. Four of the five member positions were filled in the May 2023 District and Parish Council nominations process and the fifth has been filled through co-option.

And finally, we bid a fond farewell to Councillor Emily Dodd who continued to support the Council during this time, balancing her many commitments with the needs of the Council. Emily has decided not to stand for election on this occasion and we wish her and her family well for the future.

Terry Gale

Chair of Clapham Parish Council