

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2024

The past year has been I believe one of quiet achievements. We started the year by celebrating the coronation of King Charles on Castle Green, with a village picnic lunch, in glorious weather. The Brackley brass band played and the green was covered with families and friends. Sulgrave enjoying themselves. The previous day Caroline Grant had organised activities for the children including the hand printed sheet you see hanging in the hall. Thank you Caroline and Nick for that special wet Saturday afternoon, and to Sulgrave Charities for sponsoring the children's mugs.

The grass cutting has once again been done to a high standard by Luke Warren, and in the winter we accepted his quote to edge all the paths, for which many residents expressed their appreciation. My thanks to Cllr Neil Higginson for his work liaising with the contractors. Neil has had to resign from the Council and we wish him well. He will always be known as the "Grassmeister". Cll Mike Powell has taken over.

HS2 has taken up much time, and thanks goes to Cllr Sara Staples for her work. The Marston road from the Magpie was closed for seven months (we were told a month originally). After a very fractious meeting in the hall in late February I arranged a meeting with the Chief Engagement Officer and his deputy. Along with Cllrs Staples and Powell we were able to secure £1500 towards the village fete and a promise of match funding towards a village project.

The V.A.S sign went up in Magpie road, which is definitely doing its job. Cllr Priestman's patience was tested, in the length of time it took W.N.C to put the pole in, but he got there in the end.

Pocket park and woodland are used by many. Cllr Jen Castle has quotes in for new equipment, which will be discussed later.

Potholes continue to be a source of annoyance. The blocked land drain in Manor road took sometime to clear, but once Unitary Cllr Alison Eastwood was informed the problem was soon solved. Our thanks go to Alison for all her conscientious representations on our behalf and good advice.

The Manor has seen a change of trustees, with real hope that there is a fresh beginning in our relationship with them.

Thank you to Lisa Roberts for her editorship of the monthly newsletter. To Susan Sanderson for running the village library and Maureen Jeffrey for her care of the planter by Stockwell lane.

My sincere thanks also to my fellow councillors for their unselfish work towards this lovely village of ours. We are a very much not only a team but a group of friends also, with that chemistry working for the greater good. My thanks also to those of you who regularly attend our meetings.

Finally may I on Sulgrave's behalf thank Christine our clerk of for her quiet but authoritative advice and guidance at all times, not least the weekly phone chats we have. We are very fortunate to live here and be part of a friendly community, so let us welcome all newcomers so we can maintain that sense of friendliness and involvement.

Richard Fonge. Chairman.

