

Chair report for Monkton Farleigh Parish Council 2023/24

It has been another enjoyable year for me as chair of the Parish Council. We have had a busy year with projects and turnover of councillors which has resulted in us increasing our numbers from 7 to 8 and boosting the resilience accordingly.

COUNSELLOR UPDATE

After 8 years on the council we said a sad goodbye to Joy Spiers and Brian Marlow and thanked them for their hard work and dedication during their time with us. To be a parish councillor takes time out of your day-to-day life to support projects and advise accordingly and both Joy and Brian contributed outstandingly whilst on the council.

Following this we made an application to increase our numbers- which was successful. Therefore, welcoming Elliot McBride, Dan Sharpe and Suzanne Stansfield to our council. They each bring unique attributes and we are looking forward to working with them.

SPRING CLEAN

I am pleased to continue the tradition of the village 'Spring Clean'. We see continued support for this by our parishioners and we continue to find bits of car, wine bottles and old bikes! Valued by all and worth the consideration of an additional clean up in the autumn

COTSWOLD WARDENS

One of the projects I am most pleased about has been the renewal of stiles and footpaths within the parish. This has been supported by the volunteer organisation 'The Cotswold Wardens' who focus on improving and maintaining footpaths and rights of way within the Cotswolds. They have spent a lot of time with us in the village and as a result we have much clearer signage and safer stiles- a very valued resource to a parish council.

TRAFFIC CALMING

We continue to engage with this project as it enters its fourth year. We are currently awaiting input from a cabinet minister regarding the speed reduction and are hopeful that this will be the final step. We have also commissioned improved signage and road markings onto the A363 from Monkton Farleigh and with the welcome reduction of road speed, are hopeful this will improve the safety of all our residents.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We are considering the use of the playground at Farleigh Rise and its surrounding areas and have a team of counsellors to work with the residents and current landowner to explore possibilities regarding renovation and maintenance

VILLAGE FETE

It was lovely to have the village fete this year and to see our community come together. However, it involves a lot of work to put on and again relies heavily on volunteers so it's future is reliant on this!

FINANCES

WE have continued to support maintenance projects in the village including painting of phone boxes and supporting local projects. We will be providing funding for the speed limit reduction and have budgeted accordingly for this big expense.

Finally I would once again like to express a huge thank you to Andy, Tom, Suzanne, Dan, Pauline, Racheal, Elliot and Jane. Without their unending support and dedication the continued improvements and maintenance of our lovely village would be impossible. This is also further supported by our village warden- Ian. Who works tirelessly week in week out around the village.