

WESTWOOD PC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As the Chair of Westwood Parish Council I welcome the Chair and members of the Area Board, speakers and members of the public to this meeting of the Wiltshire Council Area Board for Bradford on Avon.

This evening's meeting is being held in the Westwood Parish Rooms, which have been significantly renovated and upgraded in recent times. A local group of volunteers spent much time fundraising, obtaining grants and arranging for the work to be carried out. This included a new extension and kitchen, which now offers much better facilities for the community.

Regrettably Westwood Parish Council has lost one of its members, namely Marianne Cartwright-Hignett, who resigned her position. Marianne now has a young family to look after and is responsible for the upkeep and building works at Iford Manner, so her decision was understandable. We wish her well. The Parish Council continues to operate with two vacancies available.

Westwood Parish Council has recently formulated a plan to replace the play equipment in the park. Although not dangerous, most of the equipment is life expired. With funds raised through the Precept we have made a grant application through a national funding scheme and await news. Depending on the outcome, a programme of works will be produced and further grant applications made to appropriate bodies.

The Parish Council liaises with Wiltshire Council for repairs and remedial action through the Parish Steward. We have a very good working relationship with the steward who does what he can from our requests, carries out additional items that he sees are necessary and provides a list of work done. We are very grateful for the work undertaken and thank Wiltshire Council for their continued support.

It was with great regret that Westwood Nursery School closed last year, after around 40 years of operation. The Parish Council has taken back responsibility for the building in the park and is currently in the process of obtaining interests from parties wishing to take over the use. Hopefully this will be resolved in a short period of time.

Westwood Stores and Post Office has been sold and new owners are now operating. The Parish Council wishes the occupants every success.

The Parish Council has purchased two telephone boxes, both of which have been renovated by a group of volunteers and are run as book swaps, both being extremely popular.

The Parish Council continues to monitor speeds within the 20 mph Speed Limit area. Regrettably, our statistics indicate that the village has one of the worst records for speeding within Wiltshire and ideas are currently being discussed regarding further action to be taken.

Westwood Parish Council continues to work towards completion of a Neighbourhood Plan. Our Councillor, Tim Leeder, is striving to conclude matters as soon as is practicable.

Thank you for your time.