

Yattendon Parish Council

Vacancies

The council still has two vacancies and which we would love to fill! If you live in the parish of Yattendon, or within 3 miles of its borders, and would be interested in joining, please do contact our Clerk, Sarah, at YattendonParish@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Following the uncontested election, the council held its Annual Meeting in May. Adam McCormick was re-elected as Chairperson, with Philip Bickford Smith as Deputy Chairperson. Having met the relevant criteria, the Council adopted the General Power of Competence which gives the council the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation, rather than being restricted to specific powers given in legislation.

Speed Indicator Device

Many of you will have seen we have started using the speed indicator device (SID) that was jointly purchased with Hampstead Norreys Parish Council. We currently have six sites in the village where we can deploy this, although three of these are close to the school. We will be moving the SID around these sites regularly and recording the data which we can then share with West Berkshire Council and discuss if any actions can be taken where needed.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was held on 19th April. Thank you to everyone who attended – it was wonderful to see so many at our first in-person APM since COVID began. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Yattendon Estates, Renegade Brewery, Vicars Game and the Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust who all gave talks.

At the meeting, the Chair gave a report on the activities of the council over the past year, whilst the Clerk gave a report on the finances. Both reports are below.

Chair's Report

This is my first APM as Chairman and my first in person since before COVID. It's good to be doing all our meetings in person again, as I spend far too much of my work life in Teams and Zoom.

It's been a busy year on the Parish Council, with lots of change. Gordon Robertson, who served as Chairman from May 2010 resigned in May last year. As did Anne Harris, who had been Vice Chair from May 2011. We also had Nicky Meadows resign in December 2022. However, we have recently had Tim Magee join the council and are still looking for two new members, if anyone is interested in joining us.

Outside of changes to the people on the council, we have managed to get a lot of activity done on top of the regular (and often irregular) meetings to discuss planning applications and other council business.

You might have noticed that we have recently started using the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the village. It's been in use since the start of April and will soon start generating data for us from the six approved sites we have in the village. The hope, of course, is that it makes locals and those passing through think about (and where needed reduce) their speed as they come through the village. While we are a small Parish at around 350 people, I think you'll be surprised at some of the traffic volumes moving through the village when we have a full month's data.

The improvements to the Well House were also completed, making the site far more attractive. This was a project that took a lot of work and planning and was a real labour of love for one of the members of the council. The project was only completed due to funding received from Yattendon Estates and The Good Exchange.

The council donated funding for the entertainment for the Jubilee event and will also donate for the Coronation event happening in a few weeks' time. We also made the purchase of some Tommy Statues that we can reuse each year and will be used this year when the Remembrance Parade takes place in the village in November.

All the above show the Parish Council is doing what we can to help organisations like the Estate, the Sports and Social Trust, The School & FOYS help make life for those in the Parish a little bit brighter and better. I hope that in the coming year we can take on and help in projects that continue to improve life in the village.

I wanted to close by thanking the other councillors, Sarah the Parish Clerk and Karen who does a great job in keeping the village as litter free as possible.

Finance Report

The finance report for Yattendon Parish Council for the financial year 2022/23 is presented.

Income

The total income received from all sources of funding was £13,130. This included:

- Precept £9,300
- Grant towards speed indicator device (SID) purchase £808
- Grant towards Well House works £2,603
- Donation towards Tommy Statues £145
- Refund for VAT spent during the 2021/22 financial year £17

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £15,252. Significant figures included in this total are:

- Total employment costs £4,463
- Grant towards the costs of maintaining the burial ground £2,500
- Well House works £2,603
- Refuse disposal (litter/dog waste bins) £642
- Insurance £572
- Grants £280
- Courtesy lights £48
- Audit fees £98
- VAT (reclaimable) £657.

Looking Forward to 2023/24

The precept will increase by £1,933 to £11,293. This is an increase of 21%. Having kept the precept as low as possible for many years, the council has found this rise necessary to meet increasing costs. A Band D household will pay a total of £64.40 throughout the year. That is just £1.24 per week.

The Parish Council will continue to support the maintenance of the burial ground, with a grant of £2,500. There will continue to be the usual expenses involved in running the Parish Council, such as providing the courtesy lights, insurance, employment costs, audit fees, and refuse disposal.

Next Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Thursday 7th September at 8pm in the Village Hall. All residents of the parish are welcome to join us.