

Chair Report to Annual Parish Meeting - March 2026

The purpose of the annual parish meeting is to invite representatives from the groups and organisations within the parish to share their achievements of the past 12 months or so and wherever possible plans for the next year.

The role of the parish council is to encourage and support members of the community to feel empowered to set up groups and organise events and activities for the benefit of the wider community.

As a parish council we have endeavoured to engage with our young people with some activities centred around the playing field in 2025. Attendance was very limited and on occasions non-existent. But we tried. One positive is the feedback from parents/carers who appreciate having the playing field in the village. It was noted that our regular litter picking certainly kept it looking tidy for all users. Our scarecrow competition went ahead but sadly with reduced entries. All indicative of a lack of interest and support despite our efforts to promote these activities via social media, on our noticeboards and through the parish magazine.

The parish magazine is possibly one of the best forms of information sharing across the parish and all groups and organisations are invited to use this to promote their activities and encourage others to attend or take part. Whilst we obtain a small amount of funding from the advertisers the majority of costing is paid for from the precept we receive. Please continue to use the parish magazine to "spread the word" - its free to you all.

Our community noticeboards are also available at Park Stenak and the Mills Hall for the display of your own posters, etc., and if you send these to the clerk or myself they can also be printed and displayed on our Parish Council noticeboard too.

Our community is quiet. It has been a long year of constant change. Volunteers are like "gold dust" and it is becoming clear that the "same few" are doing ever more. Making it more challenging to keep up the energy and enthusiasm required and to get the support needed to keep the parish "alive".

We thank you for your valuable contributions in whatever way they impact on the community and will continue to make the village a good place to live where opportunities to "join in" are offered with a welcoming hand and heart.