

CEPC – Chair Review of the Year (April 2025 to May 2026)

I'm very pleased to report this year's annual review as a shorter and less traumatic update.

We have gone a full 12 months with no flood related incidents at the village Hall which is excellent news but we still remain vigilant and we are in the process of investigating additional protections that we could put in place to prevent future issues. I'd like to thank one of our new councillors Heather who has been tireless in her work around the village hall infrastructure and her knowledge and understanding of civil engineering and flood protection has been absolutely invaluable as well as her ability to talk the same language as people at the council and at various contractors.

Hopefully next year we can update you again that we will have put further defensive steps in place to protect our valuable asset. Turning to the membership of the council, we have had a stable council membership for the past 12 months with Heather and Angela joining us to compliment Karen and myself each bringing different experiences and skills that have worked together in a very complementary fashion so I'd like to record my thanks to all of my counsellors.

I am sad to report that after many years of supporting us as parish clerk, Kerry has decided to leave the position to focus on her other role as a cabin crew for British Airways. Juggling both roles has been increasingly difficult for her and I appreciate her keeping going this long.

I would like to record a tremendous thanks to Kerry. She has given me massive support since taking over as Chair and without her I probably would've floundered so I am extremely grateful as are all the rest of my counsellors - so thank you Kerry your contribution has been much appreciated over the years. I also know that view is reflected by other past chairman and I know we are gathering with them in a couple of weeks to mark your contribution.

I am pleased to welcome Karen Giles to the team, as our new parish clerk - we look forward to working with you as we move forward. Karen has been working behind the scenes with Kerry to ensure a smooth and efficient handover. I'm sure she'll be an excellent addition to the Parish Council team.

Turning back to the village Hall, we have continued to have a strong bookings and in particular the dementia group which has been a stable long-term booking. This contributes greatly to the finances of the village Hall, but also I think supports that key principle of supporting community activity and clearly this is great community work in helping elderly people with dementia and giving them a change of environment and stimulation. We hope that that partnership will continue long into the future.

As I referenced it last year's update we have moved to a more executive decision-making approach for Parish Council and we continue to employ part-time caretaker that supports some of the whole related admin and I'd like to thank Angela for her work here.

The overall financial position of the Parish Council remain strong and the precept for the 2026 financial year was agreed at £17,621 an increase on the previous year reflecting inflationary pressures, but also being very mindful of not adding excessively to council tax bills for residents. We end of the year with £33,895 in the bank and as we posted in the previous meeting our

financial audit is complete with no outstanding actions again I am grateful to Kerry for her excellent work here.

We are fortunate to have a number of volunteer supporters and I'd like to recognise them here.
Karen Bell for her continued work on keeping the Village Hall gardens looking great.
The litter picking group (20 volunteers) who help keep our village clean and tidy.
Sam , Ange & Freya have all helped significantly with coffee mornings
Jayne Warmington for arranging the Christmas Fayre
Neil / Heather & volunteers have gone out during heavy rain to stop the VH flooding
Steve Daniels in supporting us re. Sorting the drainage at the hall.

I'd also like to thank Rob Horsefield for his passionate support or community speed Watch. Over the last year Rob has been able to expanded speed Watch to include working with Warwickshire police so our unique position straddling both counties now allows us to have additional speed Watch activity beyond the monthly event with WMP that we've been able to manage previously.

Moving forward into the next council year our focus will be on continuing to protect the village hall asset and looking at ways that we can invest in the playground through potential grants and other support; focusing more on community activities and trying to get back to having more community based events, and reviewing planning applications – acting in the best interests of the community.

Andrew Taylor
6/5/26