Arlingham Parish Meeting 2023

MONDAY 3RD APRIL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

There are 7 seats on Arlingham Parish Council. Meetings are serviced by our Parish Clerk Susan Burton.

Members of the current Council (term ends end of April 2025) are:

- David Merrett, Oldbury Farm, Overton Lane (Chair)
- Nick Rowntree, 2 The Court Garden (Vice-Chair)
- Jon Shaw, Clapsgate, Arlingham Road
- Sarah Whittle, Trevone, Church Road
- Darrel Turner, Slowwe House, Silver Street
- Keith Withers, Upper Milton End Farm
- Alyn Burke, Rasher Farm

Councillor Burke takes responsibility for the Footpaths.

Councillors Merrett and Shaw take responsibility as Snow Wardens.

Councillor Turner takes responsibility for the Playground.

Councillor Whittle is representing the Parish Council at the Patient Participation Group of Frampton Surgery.

FINANCES

In December 2022 the Parish Council set its budgets for 2022/23, increasing its total annual income from the Parish Precept (Council Tax) by 3.74% to £3,918.

Within the last year the Parish Council have undertaken repairs to noticeboards, hedge laying at the playground, contributing to the playing field maintenance and continued membership with CPRE, The Countryside Charity – whom aided the Solar Farm Committee in their work on the proposed Solar Farm.

The Clerk took on her CiLCA qualification last year – this is a foundation qualification which tests the broad knowledge of all aspects of the Clerk's job. She passed in December 2022. This now gives the Parish Council the option for General Power of Competence and contributes towards Quality and Quality Gold in the Local Council Award Scheme.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a terrific event organised by the parishioners themselves and partly funded by the Parish Council. Who remembers the wonderful band that played? We hope for similar celebrations to celebrate the King's Coronation in May 2023.

The year-end finance figures are tabled for comment.

HIGHWAYS

During the last year, the Parish Council have assisted with Highway issues such as:

- Severn Trent road closures. We now have a dedicated contact at Severn Trent and will continue to challenge their requests to close the road when repairs are required.
- Arranged for fly-tipping at Dangers Corner to be removed
- Requesting the righting of the milestone at Dangers Corner
- Questioned the missing and fading lines between Frampton and Arlingham which will hopefully be refreshed as Spring approaches Summer
- Asked for the damaged 30MPH signs throughout the village to be replaced where possible

The Parish Council will continue to pursue Highways at Gloucester County Council to concede that Overton Lane is not a suitable diversion route should the road from Fretherne to Arlingham need to be closed.

Don’t forget you can report any issues with potholes or other road defects straight to the County Council using the link https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/

ACTION LOG ITEMS

These are things the Parish Council have had in the last year that are ongoing/recently completed:

Verge Mowing

From 2017 the Parish Council took from the County Council the responsibility for mowing of grass verges. This was in response to previous concerns that verge mowing by the County Council's contractors was of a poor quality and was too infrequent. The Parish Council appointed local agricultural contractor Dave Davies to undertake verge mowing within the Parish. Both the agreement with the County Council and Dave Davies continues for 2023.

School Allocations

Both the issues with the catchment areas of the secondary schools and the cost of transport are being discussed with the County Council and Local MP. The Parish Council will continue to work on this until a satisfactory conclusion is reached.

Paramotors

The Parish Council were able to confirm with the organisers that both Abclift Farm and the centre of the village would be no-fly zones for their event at the beginning of March.

Gates into the village

These are still being considered and as more information is available the Parish Council will share with parishioners.

Church

Working groups (known as The Friends of St Mary's Arlingham) have been created. Of which some of the Parish Councillors are now members and regular updates have been seen in the Parish Newsletter.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Considering and commenting on planning applications is, in terms of time taken, one of the items on which the Parish Council spends a lot of time. In a typical year the Parish Council considers approximately 20 planning applications.

Observations made on planning applications are referenced to the relevant planning policy. The Parish Council is supportive of good development within the designated development area and of a reasonable/practical interpretation of policy.

This year was no different with a solar farm and village shop as potential applications to be considered.

Proposed Solar Farm

The Parish Council created a new committee, when the planning application was received, consisting of the 4 members that didn't declare an interest in the application. Through this committee they compiled an understanding of all aspects of the application and submitted a comprehensive objection report. The Parish Council were informed by the developer Kronos and Stroud District Council in December 2022 of the termination of the solar farm project.

The Grove

The Parish Council were again a little light on Cllrs who were able to comment on a planning application when this one was received. We asked for this to be determined by the Development Control Committee at Stroud District Council. This was granted and currently the application has been appealed by the applicant due to non-determination of the application within its specific timeframe.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

New/updated policies

Over the last year the Parish Council have updated its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as well as creating an Action Plan, Risk Management Scheme, Equality & Diversity Policy, Training & Development Policy, Grant Awarding Policy, Publication Scheme and adopted the Stroud District Council Town and Parish Plan.

Severn Voice

Severn Voice meetings are held twice a year and are attended by representatives from Arlingham Parish Council alongside other local parishes in the Severn Vale. At these meetings issues that affect multiple parishes are discussed and solutions are sought collectively. These issues have included amongst others secondary school admissions, impact of canal usage, service from Frampton surgery and solar farm developments.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Although the Council is still led by an Alliance of Labour, Green and Lib-Dem parties, the make-up of the Labour party element changed during last year, with that group splitting into three factions, Independent Left, Community Independent and Labour itself, all however supporting the Alliance.

Projects included to be improved in the coming year are more renewable energy schemes, which include Stratford Park Leisure Centre, The Pulse in Dursley, and the Museum in the Park. Better walking and cycling facilities, extra funding for Council owned play parks, funding for refugees from conflicts, and no increase in the majority of Council-owned car parks.

An increase of 2.99% in Council Tax for services delivered by Stroud District Council was set in February, meaning an increase of 13p a week for4 the average Band D property. Of course, to that is added the County Council, The Police and Crime Commissioner's and the local Parish Precept share. The Council is continuing with 100% support of Council Tax for people in need.

Replacement vehicles in the Ubico fleet have included the purchase of an electric road sweeper, electric waste and recycling collection vehicles, while new vehicles used by the Neighbourhood Warden Service also include electric models.

Recognition of the waste and recycling collection service run by Ubico on behalf of the Council was given for keeping the service functioning without hardly a glitch during the Covid pandemic.

Planning still plays an important part in District Council work, and shortfalls have been identified in that service. Extra Development Control Officers have been recruited to move the service forward, and more Planning Enforcement Officers are now in place, as that part of the service is recognized as being severely undermanned. It is to be hoped that with the extra staff in place, results will improve in the near future It must be said that Stroud is not the only Council experiencing staff shortages in the Planning department, as rewards for staff are greater in the private sector of the industry.

The District Council and the District itself were rated above the national average again in a recent independent satisfaction survey of residents and businesses.

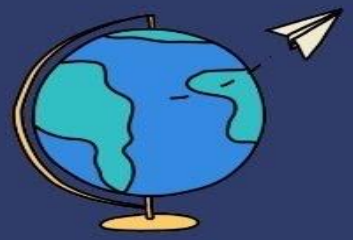
CHARITIES REPORT

Arlingham Combined Charities

GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

If you are a resident of Arlingham aged between 16-21 you are invited to apply for a small grant.

Small grants are available for funding towards any educational travel, sporting equipment, books for study.



For further information please contact:
arlinghamcc@gmail.com

ALL THINGS IT-RELATED

The Parish Council are very fortunate to have an IT-whizz on it's panel and it is with great thanks to Cllr Nick Rowntree that we are about to unveil a new and improved Parish Council website. The new website will still hold all the important information and work the Parish Council do with upgraded options for a search facility amongst other features. The new website will also provide categories for news articles to help parishioners quickly and easily locate information. The site has also been designed to display correctly on mobile phones, tablets and PCs.

Throughout the last year the Parish Council have tried to increase their usage of social media, in the form of Facebook, to communicate its work, highlight road closures and give updates on planning applications such as the proposed solar farm to name a few. This information is also shared on the Parish Council website and we hope you have found it useful.

All of the Parish Councillors now have Parish Council specific email accounts which can be found on the Parish Council website. You are still very welcome to contact the Clerk using info@arlingham.co.uk.

VILLAGE PLAN….

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN, COMMUNITY LED PLAN OR VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE IN PAPER FORM THIS EVENING AND WILL BE FOLLOWED UP AT A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE FUTURE BEFORE CONSULTATION WITH PARISHIONERS AND ASSESSING GRANT/S TO COVER THE COST WHERE POSSIBLE.