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Chinnor Parish Council

Annual Reports **2024-2025**



Contact CPC

Community Pavilion, Station Road, Chinnor, OX39 4PU

Phone: 01844 353267

Email: clerk@chinnorparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.chinnorparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Chinnor Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report by Cllr Maggie Mackenzie

The Parish Council is fortunate to have a strong team of councillors who are committed and hardworking for our community.

During the part of the last year, we have carried 3 vacancies, Councillors Cooke and Ball stood down midterm, I would like to thank them both for their contributions to Council.

We welcomed Sue Atkins to our staff team as the new Deputy Parish Clerk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our County Councillors Kate Gregory and Nigel Champken-Woods for all their hard work and wish Nigel all the best in his retirement. Also, our District Councillors, Cllrs Ali Gordon-Creed and Ed Sadler who also work hard for the local community and are very approachable. We are grateful for all the work they do in our community and particularly for their support of the Parish Council.

I will now give some brief updates on Parish Council activities over the last twelve months.

Play areas. Conigre play area – we have a budget for essential maintenance; however, we are looking towards replacing and updating the play equipment here in the near future.

The Council lease with SOHA for the St Andrews Road play area came to an end this year and it was decided not to renew it as all of the equipment and play surfaces required renewing/upgrading and we don't have funds to do both play areas.

We are moving forward in our major projects with the Skate Park tender awarded and hopefully coming to fruition before the end of the year.

The refurbishment of the building on Whites field and establishing a small sports pavilion at Old Kiln Lakes continue to be pushed forward.

This leads me to the Parish Council precept (the council tax rate set by the Parish Council) there has been an increase of only 3.86% per household for 2025/26, which is equivalent to an increase of 11p per week on a Band D property.

Good Neighbours Scheme, thank you to the organisers and driver volunteers that continue to support our residents

Youth club, this year we said goodbye to youth leader Sarah Le Good, who we would like to thank for all the years she has devoted to youth club. We welcome Donna Davies as the new youth leader. We are hoping to increase the offering to the youth of the village. Watch this space!

5.

August Bank Holiday Weekend

We will have the traditional
Marquee on Whites Field over the
August Bank holiday with all the favourites
Beer Festival, Church Service and Flower Show

We will also be hosting the
Chinnor Community Awards

Again, this year on Wednesday 23rd August
So, think about who you would like to recognise
more information and nomination forms
will be available from mid-April.



3. Finance Report by Cllr Rich Gray

As always, we are committed to being prudent with public funds.
We support local organisations with our grant awards each year.

CPC Grants Awarded in our community 2024 / 2025

The Parish Council allocated a budget of £20,000 allowing groups providing services for the local residents to apply for funding towards worthy projects.

Financial contributions were made to the following groups:

£1000.00	Mill Lane School association
£1000.00	Red Kite Family Centre
£100.00	Rotary Club
£870.00	Village Centre
£500.00	Mill Lane Community Garden
£500.00	St Andrews School
£1000.00	Chinnor Youth Darts
£997.50	Chinnor Football Club
£180.00	Greening Chinnor
£1000.00	St Andrews Church
£1000.00	Lord Williams PTA

As well as the above grants, CPC awarded £10,000 to the community swimming pool to support the replacement of the pool liner. The pool is used by our local schools for swimming lessons as well as providing important private swimming lessons for a large number of children throughout the year. It supports community swims for both adults and children. They also completed the work funded by developer S106 monies to refurbish the changing rooms. Chinnor Youth Football club also received support to help fund the refurbishment and upgrade to the floodlights in Whites Field to include brighter lights using lower energy.

The council upgraded the MUGA lights at the same time.

The council also utilised allocated S106 monies to ensure the sports pitches at OKL were fit for use.

Whilst not spent in the 24/25 calendar year, CPC earmarked £220,000 from S106 money and financial reserves to build a community skatepark in 2025, in order to provide additional 'free at the point of use' facilities within the village for young persons, families, and other wheeled sports users.

4. Planning Committee Report by Cllr Martin Wright

This has been a relatively quiet year for the planning Committee. There have been no major attacks on the village, and the latest version of the SODC Local Plan still acknowledges the past over-development of the village. The Neighbourhood Plan is still up to date, reflecting the needs of Chinnor.

The multiple applications for 79-81 Lower Icknield Way have caused some confusion, but it seems that the approval given on appeal still stands, although a subsequent application has been refused. Therefore, the development will go ahead. Still on Lower Icknield Way, the application for development at Paddocks has still to be determined.

Henton Village Green has been under threat on two fronts. One is from developers requiring access and utility connections, and the other is the protection of the Green from heavy lorries and parking. The Council is working to ensure that the first is done legally and with minimum disturbance to the Green. Secondly, the Council is in discussion with Residents to agree the best way of protecting the Green from traffic encroachment.

The Council continues to engage with Oxfordshire County Council over road matters, with particular emphasis on potholes and the protection of the zebra crossing at the Thame Road/Mill Lane Junctions.

The big unknown for the future is Government policy on development. Will Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans have any standing by next year? We wait to see.

5. Amenities Committee Report by Cllr Jackie Webb

The current members of the Committee are, Councillors Ashdown, Portnall, Edwards, Mackenzie, Sarai and Webb (Chair).

It has been another busy year for the Amenities Committee as it has responsibility for the following Parish Council Services which include events, activities and projects, play areas and recreational facilities, annual village community marquee events, village maintenance, youth activities and allotments as well as the biennial Community Awards event.

Public Art Trail – following public consultation on the designs to be chosen at each of the development sites – Oak Hill Park off Crowell Road, The Carriages off Glynswood and Chiltern View off Lower Icknield Way, planning permission was granted for the erection of an oak seating structure at Oak Hill Park and the manufacture of that structure is ongoing together with the structures at the other two developments. Each of the themed Art/Sculptures represents Chinnor's association with Wood, Chalk and Iron. In addition, linking the trail will be marker/ information posts at selected points of interest throughout the village. It is hoped to complete this project during the summer of 2025.

The Garden of Remembrance at the Pound adjoining the Village Centre which is an asset owned and managed by the Parish Council, having been given a makeover earlier in the year, now contains a splendid display of planting and new garden furniture for all to enjoy and was a blaze of colour throughout the summer months.

During the August Bank Holiday weekend several local charitable and non-profitmaking organisations utilised the Marquee provided free of charge by the Parish Council. These included the Chinnor Flower and Produce Show and the Beer festival.

Youngsters within the village were again involved in specialised activities as part of the Skill Zone project initiated by Councillor Portnall. These activities included circus skills- juggling and riding unicycles, a climbing wall and balloon modelling. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue were also on hand. All activities were free and funded by the Parish Council.

There was no Community Awards event last year, but preparations are ongoing for a similar event to be held as part of the August Bank Holiday celebration in 2025.

These are a few of the achievements in 2024/2025 and there are many other exciting projects on their way.

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Community leaders. The Council continues to hold meetings with representatives of local groups and organisations.

Community bus. The last year saw the welcome introduction of the Princes Risborough Community Bus extending its service into Chinnor.

August Bank Holiday marquee. Another successful year with the addition of a youth day which included a circus skills workshop and a very large climbing wall.

Gardener. Council have recently contracted a gardener to maintain the Parish Garden areas and planters.

This year we also continue to support Henton residents with issues of flooding, developments and protection of the village green.

Council has this year installed a new IT system this will help to improve all aspects of administration and communication.

I would like to thank all Councillors and staff for their hard work this year.

Finally, I would like to finish by thanking all the many volunteers in our community who give their time freely and are involved in the many activities taking place in the parish. I am sure we are all proud to be part of our wonderful parish of Chinnor and as a community we continue to work hard to support and help each other. I am very proud to be part of such a thriving and vibrant community.