



Annual Parish Meeting

CHAIRMANS'S REPORT 2026

Fiona Mytton stepped down as a parish councillor in May 2025, and we welcomed Philip Marsh who took over the street lighting portfolio and continued Fiona's good work. My thanks to all the council members in giving up their time and expertise in their efforts to improve life within our parish. Maria Sadler has been in position for a year, and councillors and parishioners are most grateful for her professional and efficient role as clerk. We feel very lucky to have found Maria to take on the challenging role as clerk.

Without doubt at present, it is the boundary wall around the church that is causing us the most concern. The wet weather through the winter has caused parts of the wall to become unstable and in need of attention. Many may think that any repairs are the responsibility of the church but that is not the case. All repairs and/or reconstruction fall under the duties of the parish council. We are looking at ways that this is going to be funded as it is projected that costs could be in excess of two hundred thousand over the next five years. Owing to the space available for graves in the New Burial Ground at Holy Cross it is not possible at present to reserve spaces. It is only possible for current burials. The Garden of Remembrance still has spaces. Investigation for further burial plots at The Old Burial Ground is underway.

We have been fortunate to have had our Ward Councillors attend many of our parish meetings which facilitates better connectivity with West Northants Council. Our email contact addresses have changed to the format of .gov.uk which has enhanced security and helped greatly with communication. Our thanks to Bob Illingworth in setting up this new system and instructing councillors on its use. An accounting system called Scribe was implemented by the Parish Council from April 2025, and produces all statutory reports required by councils. The new system has helped the clerk to provide the Parish Council with fast, accurate and fully compliant financial management reports, bank reconciliations, and helped to provide transparency for councillors and auditors.

In the West Northants Local Plan, the parish has been allocated sixty-nine new homes over the next twenty odd years. This is not a negotiable number but one that we have to accommodate. A working party of councillors is looking at how best to develop a Neighbourhood Plan that will take in to account all factors regarding any future residential development. There will be plenty of opportunities for parishioners to be involved in the decision process. The Council has responded to the WNC Local Nature Recovery Strategy with a positive response. Play areas and village greens owned by the council have been nominated under the 'Call for Green Spaces'. Councillors, guided by John Russell, have been preparing a Parish Mapping Plan which collates various aspects of our community especially assets for which the parish council maintains responsibility. This ongoing piece of work will be of value to successive councils and help in auditing our resources.

It was good to see our roundabout newly installed on the playing field and newly painted. Throughout the year there have been various improvements to the play areas including the

replacement of the grass matting. Our playgrounds are well-used and as it is important that our play areas are kept in good order we continue with our yearly external inspection. Likewise, our footpaths are regularly walked by our footpath guardians. Chris Bulliard now gives the parish regular updates on our thirteen miles of paths throughout the parish . Where needed repairs have been made including a new weighted gate to the Butchers Lane field footpath.

Potholes seem to appear on a regular basis and please would residents report these to Fix My Street. The more residents report them the better the chance of repair. The parish has four new SIDS (speed indicator devices) which give us an indication of volume of traffic and highlight the level of speeding through our parish. We now have new reflective signs that welcome visitors to our individual villages and hamlets that make up the parish of Pattishall. The 30mph limit out of Eastcote towards Gayton has been extended to slow down speeding traffic and we now have an additional 40mph limit on the Banbury Lane coming from Rothersthorpe. And finally, Leys Road and all cul-de-sacs off it have been micro-surfaced together with the concreted surface of Leys Road and Festival Road being completely resurfaced. Thank you to our Highways Portfolio Holder, Nigel Banister for his perseverance in getting this done.

As a council we are happy to look at requests for help from organisations who may require funding for an event. This past year we have supported:

The Annual Produce Show, The Senior Citizens Lunch, The Community Café, Pattishall Playing Field Bonfire Event, Pattishall Parish Hall heating installation, Astcote Chapel for an assisted stair lift. Pattishall Scouts, Northampton Schools Conference, VE80 Commemorations for SSAFA, Holy Cross clock repair.

Barry Evans

Chair Pattishall Parish Council