

Hello everyone

I have been re-elected for a second term as chair of SPC and before sharing a summary of my report for the Annual Parish meeting, I wanted to thank everyone for their continued support. This month the VN update article is a little different from my usual, as it looks back over the whole year, rather than focusing on a single meeting.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Annual Parish Meeting at Wellow Institute. This May marks a full year since the current Council was elected, and since I became Chair. It has been a year of steady progress, careful housekeeping, and continued commitment to serving our parish.

We began by recognising changes at Isle of Wight Council. Our thanks go to Peter Spink for his years of support as ward councillor, and we congratulate Nick Stuart on his re-election. We also welcome Cllr Debbie Conlin and look forward to working with her.

Much of this year has focused on strengthening how the Council operates. We completed a full review of our policies, adopted clearer Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, refreshed several noticeboards, and began work to improve our website and visual identity. Deferred grants from the previous year were approved, supporting Newbridge Community Centre, the Wellow Literary Institute, and West Wight Swimming Pool.

Community engagement has been a highlight. We attended Shalfleet School's leavers' celebration, each pupil received a scientific calculator and held two informal "Meet the Councillors" events, which were well received. We have also worked closely with Southern Water, Island Roads, and our local police, who have attended meetings to discuss issues such as speeding. Despite repeated invitations, WightFibre has not responded to calls or emails.

There have been several successes. Shalfleet won the Best Kept Large Village Award, and we are involving the school in deciding how to use the prize money. Following the loss of the ATM at Shalfleet Village Stores, we worked with Gordon and his family to secure a replacement. We also welcomed our new Clerk and RFO, Gareth Hughes, whose work has already made a positive difference. Earlier this year, after public consultation, we made representation at the IW Council Planning Committee regarding the proposal to build on Wellow Field, permission was refused. We also appointed Ant Mildenhall as Tree Officer, and recently approved a grant to help renew the goalposts at Wellow Millennium Green.

Some matters remain ongoing, many of which rely on Isle of Wight Council action. These include Bouldnor Viewpoint, planning enforcement at Newbridge and Dodpitts

Lane, and concerns about Station Road parking and the lack of pavement. We continue to press for progress.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their hard work and dedication, and Gareth for his professionalism and support. We are a small council, but every member gives their time freely and with genuine care for our Parish.

Thank you for your continued engagement. Your concerns and ideas guide our work.

Warm regards,

Jane

Chair, Shalfleet Parish Council