**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024, UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Cllr Emma Bird welcomes everyone to the meeting and opens the meeting with an annual report from the Parish Council:*

**Engagement**

Members of the Council plan to issue another Parish questionnaire in 2024.

We produced a newsletter that was included in the Parish Newsline magazine to keep all informed. We are looking at providing another newsletter.

**Flooding**

Flooding remains an issue in the Parish. The Parish Council has purchased more flood road signs, gel bags and general equipment. We now have Flood Wardens who have been trained and will assist in flood emergencies. We thank LCC, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency in their ongoing support towards improving the flood issues affecting the village.

**Financial**

The budget is looking healthy, but government cut backs and further control of the Precept will mean expenditure will have to be carefully monitored.

Precept – to be £28,000, which includes a Band D Parish Council tax of £51.18 (not confirmed) per household. The Precept for 2024/25 remains the same as the two previous years.

*To explain*:- **Precept** = the amount raised by Council Tax;

**Council Tax (Band D)** = the Council Tax per band D property (all property precept valuations are based on Band D - mid range).

**Total Budget Requirement** = Precept

Street lighting repair costs amounted to £171.41 which relates to the street lights we have to pay for in Appleby Parva.

**Village Improvements**

The Parish Council now has installed various poles for the new speed awareness sign. One on Rectory Lane and the other on Top Street and Measham Road to allow for the signs to be moved. The sign has received praise and does seem to be slowing down drivers & we monitor the data and publish on the PC web site. We have installed another speed sign along Top Street; this too seem to be working. We have ordered another sign for Measham Road, this should be up and running within the next few months.

The planters in the village are continuing to be planted for each season. We are reviewing how and when these should be planted and also if and where new planters are required

The rec play area has regular inspections carried out by Rospa and we have to comply with all recommendations; we have spent over £2,000 carrying out repairs and replacements – and had new swings fitted - £5,000 of the total costs kindly donated by Mercia Park Development.

A comprehensive report has been produced listing all of the Appleby Magna assets – and this will be utilised to ensure benches, gates etc are kept in good order or replaced as necessary. Various ‘street scene’ improvements and repairs have been carried out, stiles mended, kissing gates repaired, trees and hedges cut back. We have reported various footpath issues.

Over 18 items concerning fly tipping, road and pathway problems have been reported to Highways to rectify.

A ‘live’ Christmas tree has been planted which will be decorated each year to celebrate Christmas.

A planted bed has been placed around each of the village signs.

A village spring clean has been proposed for May 2024.

**Events through the year**

Poppies were placed around the Parish for Remembrance Sunday, with the help of Sir John Moore School.

King Charles Coronation was celebrated with flags and crowns.

**Allotment Society**

The Allotment Society is working well and continues to have a waiting list.

**Appleby Sports & Rec**

The Pavilion is being well used and the car park has been extended and improved.

**Other**

Various planning applications have been considered and commented on where necessary.

AMPC website is continually being improved – thanks to Cllr. Sue Mitchell for all her hard work updating and maintaining the site

We continue to monitor the defibrillators and to ensure the pads and equipment are updated as required. We had the Top Street defib phone box renovated.

Two permanent heritage boards have been erected in the village.

**Priorities for next year**

The projects due to be completed include the installation of another Speed awareness sign, and bulb planting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the existing Councillors, the Clerk and volunteers for their time, enthusiasm and commitment to the village.