

## **Chair's Annual Report 2025–2026 - Astley Parish Council**

It is my pleasure to present the Chairman's Annual Report for 2025–2026. In summary it has been a year of steady progress, strengthening governance, and continuing to represent the interests of residents on key local issues.

### **Council Activity and Governance**

The Parish Council has met regularly throughout the year, maintaining strong engagement from Councillors and our Clerk. I am pleased to welcome Cllr Wilkinson, who joined the Council during the year and has already made a positive contribution.

We have continued an important programme of work to ensure the Council operates in line with current regulations. This has included the drafting, reviewing, and adoption of policies and procedures such as governance and data protection. While much of this work is not always visible, it is essential in ensuring the Council operates appropriately.

This work has also been a contributing factor in the increase to the precept. While the percentage rise appears significant, the actual monetary impact remains modest and reflects the need to ensure the Council is operating properly and sustainably.

### **Finance**

The Council has maintained careful control of its finances throughout the year, with regular reconciliation of accounts. We have continued to take a prudent approach to expenditure while ensuring key requirements are met.

### **Highways and Local Issues**

Road safety and highways remain a key issue for residents, and the Council has continued to pursue improvements with Warwickshire County Council, local MP and police. Work continues around speeding mitigation measures, signage, and general road safety.

In addition, the Council has actively represented the parish's interests in relation to significant infrastructure developments, including ongoing solar farm developments and Severn Trent infrastructure works running through the Parish. In both cases, we have sought to ensure that local interests are raised and properly considered.

### **Community**

Throughout the year, the Council has addressed a range of issues within the parish, including maintenance matters, grit bins, dog bins, signage, and the defibrillator.

We also continue to monitor the condition and accessibility of public footpaths and respond to issues raised by residents where possible.

## **Engagement and Support**

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the support and contributions of:

- County Cllr Scott Cameron, for his ongoing support and assistance in progressing county-level issues
- The Arbury Estate for their continued involvement with the parish meetings
- Astley Parochial Church Council for their collaboration on local matters, including church events, castle open days and social activities
- Local residents, whose input and feedback help to guide the Council's priorities

## **Thanks and Acknowledgements**

I would like to record my thanks to Mr Spicer, our previous Chairman, for his work in the previous year that allowed the Council to start the year in a good position.

My sincere thanks also go to all Councillors for their commitment throughout the year. In particular, I would like to recognise the work of our Clerk, whose diligence and organisation are essential to the effective running of the Council.

## **Looking Ahead**

Looking forward, the Council will continue to focus on representing residents' interests on local issues developments, and making best use of available resources for the benefit of the parish.

We will also monitor and await further information regarding potential changes to local government organisation within Warwickshire, which may have implications for the role of the Parish Council.

Cllr Webber  
Chair  
May-26