

Astley Parish Council

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Website: astleyparishcouncil.org.uk | Email: clerk@astleyparishcouncil.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024

- The first meeting of the year was held on 18th April 2023.
- Our Annual Parish Council meeting was held on 25th May 2023 and the accounts for the year 2022/23 were examined and approved.
- A new Councillor Simon Webber was co-opted on Astley Parish Council in July 2023. This brings it up to its limit of 5 Councillors.

Planning Applications:

- Sole End solar farm was approved (PAP/2022/0544) by North Warwickshire Borough Council planning board in June 2023. The clerk attended the meeting and put forward additional requests on behalf of residents who will be impacted by the build, namely improved screening, and ongoing consultation. This was agreed by the developers.
- PAP/2023/0296 for Oak View Farm – a retrospective planning application was agreed unanimously.
- PAP/2023/0527 was approved by the parish council, as it related to a change of materials for an already approved access road.

- **Village maintenance**

i. the Bunds A small increase of £30 per annum for maintaining the Bunds was agreed, as the Parish Council appreciate the time and effort that is put into keeping Astley looking beautiful throughout the year;

ii. The Defibrillator: the Clerk arranged for a VAT return to be submitted which brought £348.18 back into the account following purchase of the Defibrillator.

iii. In November, **potholes** near the crossroads were reported to Warwickshire County Council and work was completed soon after.

- **Special village events** - Cllr Spicer has been in negotiation with the Church Warden of St Marys' Astley and Prof Vivian Montgomery about staging a concert to celebrate Arbury's musical heritage – there has been some discussion about other special village events. In addition to the two successful Open Weekends;
- **Duke of Suffolk Monument** – due to rabbit burrowing, the monument is sinking into the ground. Cllr Spicer has approached 3 Tudor historians to ask for their support in fundraising to repair this important landmark. To date, he has no replies but will continue to explore this and other local fundraising channels; The Arbury Estate is happy to consider any proposals the council might propose.
- **Parish Clerk** - a small annual increase in salary of £44 for the Parish Clerk was agreed in line with the Local Government Pay scale.
- **Community Speed Watch** - Councillor Webber met with a PCSO in January to discuss road speeds. Whilst Community Speed Watch is not an option due to the road layout, they have said that a regular speed van may be a possibility. We are waiting to hear more in the coming year.

- **APC website** - The Clerk was able to bring the website under control of the parish council, and then moved our website hosting over to a different provider, saving the parish council £72.24. We are very pleased to have a subscription option which residents may use to access our agendas and minutes and other documentation as needed;
- **The Precept:** it was agreed that the precept of £2,000 would remain for 2024/25, meaning that there was no increase from the previous tax year (2023/24). The first instalment of £1000 was paid in April 2024.
- **Our current financial position:** Balance at the bank (as of 31st March 2023) was £252.95
- **Thanks** - I should also like to thank my fellow councillors for the hard work and continuing involvement with this council and we also thank Debra Spicer for her hard work as Clerk to the council.

M Spicer

Councillor Mick Spicer

Chair

Astley Parish Council

May 2024