



Aylburton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Meg Humphries • 6 Court Road, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 5SY • Tel: 01594 719245
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Chairman's Report, April 2019

I would like to start my report by thanking my fellow councillors for all their hard work and dedication to the Parish. Their combined knowledge of all things local has been an enormous help when trying to get things done.

It is then with some regret that we have to say goodbye to Ray Woodward and Andrew Blamey who have both decided not to stand for re election. Both have worked hard for the parish and I would like to extend our thanks to them and I know that we will be able to call on them for any advice and help that the parish may need in the future.

Ray has, for many years, kept the Parish looking fantastic and to replace the grass cutting service that Ray undertook we put the contract out to tender to which we received a number of replies. After some consideration we have now instructed Martin Rice, who lives in the Parish, to take on the grass cutting contract. Ray will continue to plant up the flower tubs and the council has put out a call for willing volunteers to help water and look after them.

I would also like to welcome Meg Humphries who has taken on the role of clerk and responsible financial officer. She is a valuable asset to the parish council and has already made her mark by getting us up to speed and more professional and transparent in our approach.

Recently the council were contacted by Martin Hutchings of GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council) and Keith Chaplin of FoDDC (Forest of Dean District council) after being identified as a parish to take part in a strategic programme to undertake a housing needs survey.

GRCC has provided Gloucestershire's communities with expert advice and guidance with regards to current issues such as housing as an independent and neutral organisation. The council agreed that such a survey would be beneficial to the parish in giving an overall look at the housing needs of the parish and will help with any future developments. We would encourage every household to complete the survey/questionnaire and return them in the pre-paid envelopes. The survey is completely anonymous and the outcome of the report will be published later in the year.



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The council continues to work with highways to keep them informed of any roads that need repair and maintenance and this seems to be an on going concern. We are grateful to all parishioners who keep us informed of any new areas that need attention and we will continue to do our best to get these areas dealt with.

The council are in the process of trying to address road safety issues. We are looking to obtain two speed signs that relate the speed that cars are doing as they enter the village rather than stating what the speed should be. The council feel that this is a better approach and will look to obtain funding from the Resilience Centre for some, if not all, of the cost.

I would like to thank AUCA (Aylburton Upper Common Association) for their help and commitment to looking after the Upper part of the Parish. The work they carry out is very much appreciated by the council and I look forward to working more closely with them in the future.

The council did have a very difficult decision to make when looking at the precept for the coming year but to make the council resilient and sustainable for the future we had to increase the precept by a substantial amount and our Clerk has outlined our reasons for doing so in her financial report.

We are hopeful that at the review for the next precept we will be able to return to more acceptable increases.

This is a very brief summary of some of the work that the council has been doing over the last year and we welcome and encourage any input and suggestions from parishioners to help make our parish the best it can be.

Thank you all for your support.

Stephanie Lord (Chair)