

## **Highmoor Parish Council Chairs Annual Report 14th May 2025**

In the summer, our previous chair, Elaine Mulvaney, had to stand down as she was leaving the village. She will be greatly missed for her dedication and clear-headed approach to matters. Richard Stacpoole took over as chair at the meeting in September 2024.

James Waite has joined the council so we are up to our full complement of five councillors.

We have now had a full year of working with Theresa Goss as our permanent clerk and we all thank her for her work and the experience that she brings to the job. It makes it so much easier to function as a councillor with her in post.

Thanks also to Catherine Clarke who does so much for us in maintaining the website and uploading items to it.

Our main focus this year has, as usual, been on planning matters and traffic speeds in the village.

During the year we have considered 12 planning applications. Some have been very straightforward while others have required a lot of time and input from the council and residents of the village.

We are trying to follow up on 2 enforcement issues with the District Council.

Vehicle activated signs showing and recording the speed of traffic, were finally fitted during the early summer. These give us data on vehicle speeds throughout the day and night, which is very useful when considering the effect of speed limit changes.

The speed limit did indeed change down to 20 mph at the end of 2024. No one expected absolute adherence to the speed limit, but there has certainly been a general reduction in vehicle speeds which has been greatly appreciated.

In September we met with a member of the highways engagement team to discuss a number of issues, particularly the footpaths in holly close and footpaths in the rest of the village. We also brought up potentially dangerous trees overhanging roads, clearing of drains and gullies and the use of CIL to further improve our roads.

The Parish Council continue to support the work of the Third Thames Bridge Parishes Working party, trying to give the villages of South Oxfordshire a stronger voice in the discussions about this contentious subject.

During the year, the Glebe has seen a lot of work and improvements. The replacement bench was installed in September and is well used. There was discussion about the planting that we thought appropriate at the Glebe. It was decided to put in a range of native trees to enhance the wild atmosphere there. There has also been sowing of wild flowers which will complement the trees.

The annual litter pick was carried out in early April soon after the district councils deep clean team did their work.

Asian Hornet traps have been obtained for use in the village to detect the presence of this invasive species. None has been found so far.

Richard Stacpoole

Chair