

Chair's Report. August 2nd, 2023

Good evening,

Usually, July is the start of the slow months. In the past it has been when planning application deadlines are in the middle of the summer and parish councillors struggle to answer given holidays and children – not this year!!

Good news is that the Ben Jonson is open and even made mention in the Bicester Advertiser!

You'll note that there has been quite a bit of communication with villagers over a range of issues. Some can be sorted quickly by sharing information and other raise grave concerns as you will hear later in the meeting. This is exactly the type of Parish Council we have been working hard to achieve - *communicative and supportive*.

We held a food bank drive in early July and when the donations were taken to the Bicester Food Bank both James and I noticed *the very empty shelves*. One of the volunteers said they had the lowest amount of food on shelves in twenty years – there has been such a huge upswing in demand. News is that they will take fresh food now. If anyone has lots of vegetables/fruit they can't use – give them to me and I'll take them over to the Food Bank.

Our next collection is this Saturday morning, August 5th, in front of the shop.

Last evening, one of Weston's most knowledgeable people on all matters to do with the village, Paula Hessian, took our two most recent councillors on a history walk of the centre of the village. She was amazing and left us wanting more!

The Oxford Association of Local Councils newsletter mentioned "The first Local Council Clerk Week took place from 10 – 14 July this year and to celebrate the wonderful work that clerks do for their local communities"I confess to not knowing about this. So, I'd like to celebrate our wonderful clerk, Jane Mullane with a small gift to help her enjoy her holiday in Portugal!! Thank you for everything you do Jane – you are fantastic!!

All other matters are on the agenda.

Thank you,

Diane