

Chair's Report. August 2025

July has been a very challenging and busy month. It feels as though everything is changing at both the national and local levels. I've been to two key events which I report on in this meet2025ing. Hanging over every discussion was – to what extent will change affect a small village?

I think it is important for the Parish Council to stay up to date on the issues but also to focus on our immediate work – those tasks which keep the village a pleasant place to live. Engagement with members of the community is the way forward – finding volunteers becomes so much easier when we have to sort out a work party.

I've been knocking on doors this month meeting new people and adding fifteen contacts to the mailing list. More importantly I've tried to let people know what we do and how easy it is to contact us. Thank you some of the help you have given.

We are, of course, saddened by the death of two of our older villagers. One lady, Jean Godwin, came here as a young nanny to the child of residents of The Manor Hotel. She loved to show me the photo of her pushing a very fancy pram – the time seemed so long ago. We'll miss the booming good humour of Bill Lawrie who, with his wife Joy, has had a lovely flower garden on Westlands Ave. and who tended the Village Hall garden for years. He was a chef and could be counted on to provide shortbread for any occasion.

We will have a focus on our Development Plan at the September meeting. We have floated a number of ideas over the past few months. It would be helpful if you could email your ideas and proposals in time for all of us to consider them.

Thank you