

5. Chair's Report – 5 August 2026

This is an important meeting for our Parish Council. Welcome to the new parish councillors, Anand and Mark. It is a big step and we look forward to the important sharing of new ideas.

I frequently refer to a crisis of identity in our changing village profile. Who are we as a village? What do we want to become? The only way to create community is to work within the community and learn more about our villagers – and our commercial enterprises. Little importance seems to be placed on some of the 60 plus businesses in the village – how can we involve them in village life and recognise them when they join in. A great example is Axicon at the corner of Northampton Rd and Church Lane, the owners seem to understand how they can support us – from donating money to the celebration of the coronation of the King, to making the labels for the Community Shop. The Manor Hotel supports the Village News and also provides opportunities for great food and entertainment. There are more examples but what we need is to reach out to businesses and get their view on their relationship to us and how this can develop. A deepened sense of community will be the result of this effort.

There is so much going on around us: growth, plans for growth, changes of governing structure and the accommodation that needs be part of this. It is a challenge for all councillors to keep up to date on these changes.

Tonight's agenda is full of big ideas, and some challenges. Hopefully, our new councillors will soak it in and be aware that they don't have to know everything by the next meeting.

Diane