

# **Chairmans Annual Report – Chale Parish Council – May 2024**

Dear Chale Residents and Parish Council Colleagues,

I begin my report by firstly thanking all my parish council colleagues for their commitment and support during 2023 / 2024. I also wish to thank to our excellent parish council clerk for her outstanding work building on her record of achievement over previous years – a true parish council asset.

During 2023 / 2024, as a parish council, we addressed many issues and concerns on behalf of the Chale Community. These are specifically highlighted in the monthly meeting agendas that we hold and the subsequent minutes recorded - details of which can be found on our website and which are published locally on a monthly basis to keep the community informed.

## **Finance**

As with any council or committee it is essential that we maintain good financial accounting and I am pleased to report that not only have we remained within budget for the year but we have done so without the need to increase our precept. This was an important decision made to enable us to recognise and respond to the significant economic pressures being experienced by residents in our community. It also reflects the 'immaculate' record keeping of our parish clerk highlighted by our auditors when approving our annual accounts.

## **Supporting those in need**

Building on our strategic priority of supporting those in need, during the year we have continued our work with individual families who have found themselves in desperate need, taking advantage of national funding provided through the Isle of Wight Council, to continue to provide crisis support to vulnerable households. It has enabled us to support those locally who have been struggling to pay for food or energy bills. In addition, one of our member has been piloting locally a 'warn hub' strategy linked to an Island wide mobile community pantry service.

## **Training and Development**

We have completed various activities to ensure we remain able to support our community, These have included provision of training in the use of the two defibrillators - one installed at the Wight Mouse Inn and one at Stubbings Engineers at Chale Green. These 'life saving' assets are maintained by the parish council and help to ensure we and others can use the equipment respond to emergencies if required.

## **Community Engagement**

As a Parish Council we continue to maintain and develop our commitment to community engagement opportunities. We have been strong in our support for the SWAY group development and look forward to a new facility being built and used this year. We are also further developing our links with the local WI. Following an excellent 'currynite' we have another activity on June 8<sup>th</sup> as part of our support for the international D Day celebrations.

## **Other Activities**

Finally, I would briefly like to mention other activities, including our regular consideration and response to planning applications, response to environmental issues, local facility improvements ( such as at the car park at Chale green store or bus stop maintenance around the village) as well as maintaining our other community assets. We are also currently underway with a review of our Emergency Plan to ensure it is fit for purpose should we have a major emergency in our community requiring a fast local response

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion it has been a busy and productive year for Chale Parish Council members – all of whom are volunteers willing to give their time and energy in support of our community - and I have been pleased to have had the opportunity to be their chairman in 2023 / 24.

**Dave Stewart**

