

## **Chairmans Report for the Annual Meeting of Chale Parish Council May 2023**

Dear Chale Residents and Council Colleagues,

In 2022 I was asked to be the Chair of Chale Parish Council following the resignation of the previous Chairman, Ron Groves, for personal reasons, and I begin my report by thanking him for his outstanding work as Chairman of the Chale Parish Council.

My term of office during 2022 / 2023 has seen the Parish Council continue to deal with a wide range of community matters and I wish to also thank Parish Council members serving during my term of office for their steadfast commitment and support.

Our monthly meetings for the year are all documented and published by our excellent Parish Council Clerk, Mikki Bailey, for whom I was pleased this year to complete a very positive appraisal report. Like many other local councils across the Island we are very fortunate to have such as professional and diligent individual in this role.

In terms of our commitments and achievements as a council during the year these are also all documented in our minutes. However I feel it is important to highlight some of the key issues and challenges we have addressed on behalf of the Chale Community.

The winter months saw a continuation of the cost of living crisis and in some cases very difficult times coping with both the winter fuel costs and wider needs. The parish council maintained close support through the 'Connect 4 Communities' Grant Money and thank local residents (Ron and Rachael) for all their work in this regard.

This challenge was further supported through a 'warm space' initiative which the Parish Council encouraged and was led by a local resident and regular council attendee (Rodney). This initiative helped to address individual mental health needs, welfare support and offered those in need warmth and social engagement to help combat loneliness.

We also saw the transition and management of the old village shop into residential premises and engaged with the Isle of Wight Council over the 'Common Land' element to ensure it was protected for future use of residents and visitors. Posts were removed and surfaces repaired to ensure this facility remains for everyone. Legal issues have also been addressed with Isle of Wight Council Officers.

The winter took its toll on the Hoy Monument and some parts became in need of urgent repair. Thanks to the work of Parish Councillor Pete Gosling, local residents, Wight Contractors and the national trust we were able to make it safe and continue to be available for the community benefit.

Speeding through the village continues to be an issue for local residents and the Parish Council are currently engaged with the Isle of Wight Council to explore what steps can be taken to address this issue which we hope will result in safe speed reduction.

As the Parish Council Year drew to a close events were also organised to celebrate the Kings Coronation. These included a local celebration and service involving our Ward Councillor Claire Critchison, the WI and Parish Councillor Dr Jeremy Lockwood.

**Dave Stewart – Parish Council Chairman**