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*Serving three Gloucestershire villages near Cheltenham of :
Shipton Oliffe, Shipton Solars & Hampen.*

The Chair's Annual Report By David Hellens - May 2024

2023/24 ending 31st March 2024 has not been without its moments of interest.

1) People:

A new team of Parish councillors were sworn in in May 2023 under the leadership of Harry Chalklin who was the last of the old guard, who delivered the wonderful Reading Room refurbishment.

We managed to persuade Verna Spires who had previously served as Clerk to re-take the Shipton post again. Verna is also the Clerk for Andoversford , so we are thankful for her many years of Clerking experience to guide the council's admin and financial reporting.

During the year Bill Lash and Helen Cowing stood down for personal reasons and we thank them for their service. Bill and Helen have been replaced by Jasmina Tyler and Andy Gibbs in Jan 2024.

I was elected to take the Chair from Harry in Jan 2024.

2) Communications:

Andy Gibbs has delivered a stunning new website, face book , and e-mail system which is now hopefully keeping everyone up to date, and we must thank Andy for his tireless work on these projects, and some of his further initiatives to come.

3) Village infra structure:

As everyone will know part of the dry stone wall supporting the telephone triangle finally collapsed and Highways decided to shut the Kilham lane slip road as a safety issue.

Although the triangle is owned by the Parish council responsibility for the supporting dry stone wall is still being debated between SPC and Highways. (There are some complex legalities)

A without prejudice deal was struck whereby Highways took down the collapsed sector at their risk and cost which enable Highways to re-open the Kilham slip road much to the relief of every one.

SPC has now surveyed the wall and gone out to tender to 3 dry stone wallers to repair and replace the worst section (some 14 meters) on a like for like basis, and hopefully by the end of the summer the dilapidated parts of the old wall will be brand spanking new. Parish reserve funds are in place to do this.

The Triangle notice board and bench have collapsed, been declared dangerous and have been removed.

Although the grass is being trimmed on the triangle it is to facilitate the use by the wall builders for skips and materials etc: rather than to make it look nice, we will sort it all out after the project has closed. Possibly with wild flowers and re-wilding and less grass.

4) SPEED:

We thank Paul Morrish for his great support of this project over many years and his kind donation of the new batteries to the speed device which have enable the smiley green face to greet people at the top of Syreford Rd.

Richard Brown is also assisting Paul with the correlation of the statistics the machine generates.

5) Neighbourhood watch

Gerry Hanagarth is continuing to move this project forward and has invited the police road show to visit the village in June.

