



## Chairman's Monthly Newsletter – May 2022

A busy time at the Parish Council this month with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, dealing with governance issues, and the welcome return of the Annual Meeting of the Parish, covering community matters. The last meeting of the Parish was in 2019! Sarah, our Clerk, has been preparing for both the usual internal audit and the additional external audit due to the Operation Watershed grant, also necessitating an extra meeting this month.

We have had some good news with the National Lottery Community Fund awarding us the money to do various things to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We have used this to buy two benches – one to go by the pond and the other on the Recreation Ground. There will be replacement notice boards for the pavilion and Coronation Hall and an accessible picnic table for the Top Field. The benches will have commemorative plaques. There will also be improved external lighting for the Coronation Hall.

The Parish Council also responded to the South Downs National Park Authority's 'Call for Nature' initiative, with the possibility of a wild flower meadow to create new wildlife habitats at both the Recreation Ground and by the John Moor seat. We are very pleased that both sites have been chosen and although the project is very much in the early stages we will of course keep everyone informed.

Operation Watershed is nearing completion with an unseasonable period of good weather helping to dry out the silt. We are currently reviewing the options for its disposal including the possibility of spreading it on agricultural land as an alternative to the use of a landfill site. We are working closely with a number of stakeholders to ensure that we can tick all the right boxes.

We hope that the weather stays fine over the long bank holiday weekend with the new grant funded items complementing the extensive programme of events, as a special reminder of this unique occasion.

*Jan Rees*, Chair, for Slindon Parish Council

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