



Chair's Monthly Newsletter – March 2023

We are delighted to welcome Katie Vanneck-Smith as a Slindon Parish Councillor. Katie has a wealth of business experience and her knowledge and enthusiasm will undoubtedly be a great asset to the Council.

The District, Town and Parish Council elections will also take place in May this year with nine member positions on the Parish Council to be filled. If the number of nominees exceeds the vacancies it will go to a vote in May otherwise the Returning Officer will declare the result on April 5th. We will of course update you on the outcome in next month's edition.

Recent months have been particularly busy for us and we are currently preparing for the end of the Council's financial year, with both an independent internal and external audit required due to the pond project funding. The second and final phase of Operation Watershed is now complete with approximately five hundred pounds left towards the cost of replacing the old pond island removed during the de-silting process.

We have some particularly good news in that we have been awarded further National Lottery Grant funding to commemorate the King's Coronation. This will allow us to fund the residual cost of the pond island, install two new commemorative seats – one for the Top Field and another for the Recreation Ground - together with a new accessible picnic table for the Recreation Ground, of the same design as the one on the Top Field. As well as benefiting from an award we are also delighted to be able to support Slindon's community event over the Coronation weekend with a grant of two hundred pounds towards their costs.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish is so important in helping Council members understand what is important to the local community, and we are pleased to have been able to respond to feedback received in 2022 by improving the surface of the pond path, organising commemorative seats and more picnic tables. We are also now able to install the pond island which should take place around May/June time. Please do therefore come along to this year's event which will take place on Thursday 25th May, starting at 7 p.m. when local MP Andrew Griffith also plans to join us. The exact format has yet to be agreed but please let Sarah know if your organisation wishes to speak on this occasion or provide a written update on their activities over the past year.

The South Downs Local Plan review is underway and we are helping to inform this through a return of publicly accessible local green spaces and completing a settlement review on the services on offer to the parish. There is also the option to complete a Parish Priority Statement. More details will follow next month after Councillor Saintas and our Clerk have attended the West Sussex Parish Workshop being run by the South Downs National Park in March.

And finally, if you haven't already done so please take time to complete the Community Transport Sussex survey, the results of which will inform Arun District Council's Transport Plan. Details can be found on our website.

Jan Rees, Chair, for Slindon Parish Council