

# Odstock Parish Council

## Chair's statement 2021/22

I want to begin by acknowledging Richard Parsons contribution to Odstock Parish Council as after 21 years' service as Odstock Parish Council Clerk, Richard decided to step down as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Richard has supported the Councilors over these many years with great knowledge, enthusiasm and professionalism. We, of course, wish Richard well and hope he has a long and fulfilling retirement.

With Richard's retirement we have warmly welcomed Jay McGowan as our new Clerk. Jay joins with experience of two of our neighboring parishes in Britford and Coombe Bissett and this has already started to bring closer ties with Britford.

Project wise, we have been successful in securing the funding needed for the footpath between Odstock and Nunton, allowing for safer passage between the two villages, and we hope this work is completed in 2022. The initial phase of our Speed Indicator Device (SID) project is also drawing to a close, the posts have been installed and the device itself arrives in 3 weeks. Our application for the AONB scheme to bury some of the smaller power lines required significant coordination between local landowners but the application has now been submitted.

We've improved our community engagement with a new website and email address for resident to get in touch, we've had a number of enquiries already and this is working well as a way of communicating with residents. We are also in much more regular discussion with Longford Estate and the Nunton Dairy farm so we can work through issues raised by residents, the flint wall rebuild at Jubilee Gardens is a good example of this collaboration.

Going into the 2022/23 year we look forward to installing the first of two defibrillators in the parish, updating the notice boards that have seen better days and are excited by further collaboration with Longford Estate on the Parish Walks initiative.

I want to finish by saying thank you to my fellow councilors for firstly welcoming myself and Jackie Owen onto the council and helping us get up to speed and secondly all their efforts this year in ensuring all the village maintenance activity gets done alongside our initiatives. I'd also like to thank volunteers for their efforts litter picking in the parish and the speed watch team for their continued work.

Edward Riley  
Chair, Odstock Parish Council