



Annual Parish Assembly 2023

**Nick Burraston, OBE,
Chair, Hermitage Parish Council**

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL 2022-23

- Welcome all here tonight and thank you to our Parish Clerk and all Parish Councillors who have served during 2022-23, which in many ways has been a challenging year.**
- I must also thank all involved with the arrangements for APA this evening.**

Council Members 2022-2023 (current)

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Ms Nicky Pierce

Chair: May to October 2022 Cllr Sue Russell;

November 2022 to 4 May 2023 Cllr Nick Burraston, OBE.

- **Cllr Emma Chan, Vice Chair**, Liaison with school, Design of publications
- Cllr Tom Moran, Financial Working Party: property, documents, transparency, Website, CCTV
- Cllr Ruth Cottingham, Finance Working Party: property, documents, transparency, NDP, Furze Hill wildlife site, Tree surveys, Green spaces
- Cllr Ann Goldsmith, H&S policy inc risk assessments, Dines Way green, Tree survey, Furze Hill wildlife site
- Cllr David Brown, Burial ground, Charlotte Close green, Footpath, Patient representative group, Planning
- Cllr Roy Marr, Burial ground, Lipscomb Close green, Liaison with village hall trustees
- Cllr Carolyn Purchase, Defibrillators: monthly checks, Emergency plan, Highways: Speed watch
- Cllr Brad Jennings (joined Feb. 2023)

Cllrs serving & subsequently resigning during year: Cllr. Sue Russell,

Cllr M. Yam, Cllr F. Ashworth,

Hermitage Annual Parish Assembly

Speakers & Reports 20 April 2023

- **Oliver Cronk – how to use sustainable technology & reduce environmental impacts**
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan – Rosie Healey**
- **Speed Watch – Cllr. Carolyn Purchase**
- **Hermitage Community Groups – updates from “Chairs”**
- **Primary School – Head Teacher Gill Turner**
- **Pre School – Manager Mel Needham**
- **Village Hall – Sara Disson**
- **Holy Trinity Church – Mark Foster**
- **Horticultural Society – Rob Burgess**
- **Scouts – Mark Kerry**

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2022-23

A CHALLENGING YEAR –

- Costs of goods & services to maintain village assts and environment inflation increases**
- Unexpected capital spend – replacement bus shelter**
- NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – additional costs to secure forward development planning decisions in line with Village preferences
HAVE LED TO “SQUEEZE” ON BUDGET.**
- VAT RECLAIM OUTSTANDING**

SIGNIFICANT WORK & PROJECTS 2022-23

- **Bus Shelter Replacement**
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan**
- **Planning Applications (c.38 considered)**
- **Speed Watch**
- **Playground Inspections & Reporting**
- **General maintenance of Open Spaces, Playgrounds & Furze Hill**
- **Support to Jubilee and Christmas celebrations at Village Hall**

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

REVENUE SPEND AGAINST BUDGET

YEAR TO MARCH 31 2023

- **Budget: £40,565 (from WBDC Precept)**
- **Committed: £19,318 (from ring fenced reserve** and grants^^ recd. In 2021/22)**
- **Total: £59,883**
- **Big spend items: grass cutting, **Furze Hill trees & recreation ground, maintenance and inspections of playgrounds, insurances, preparing NDP^^, Parish Clerk employment costs & Speed Awareness equipment, loan repayment.**

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

Actual **(£27,202)**

Budget **£18,451**

Grant **£5,000** (booked in 2021[^])

Variation: **£3,751** (from reserves)

Detail:

➤ **Replace Bus Shelter: Actual £8,752**

^NOTE: Bus shelter largely paid for by a Parish Plan grant.

➤ **PWLB Loan Repayments: Actual £16,450**

(Note: HPC largest annual cost item)

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL SOURCE OF FUNDS - YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

- WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL PRECEPT £53,150
- DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTIONS £2,387
- BURIAL GROUND £903
- BANK INTEREST £1,429
- OTHER INCOME £8,745 (inc. grants)

TOTAL

Actual £66,565

Budget £60,210

Difference +£6,355

HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL BANK BALANCE

YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

- **BALANCE AT APRIL 1st 2022:** **£231,071**
 - RECEIPTS : £66,615
 - PAYMENTS: (£90,820)
 - Un-presented cheques: £1,862
 - **TOTAL at Bank:** **£208,728***
 - ***NOTE: this includes £173,499** developer contribution ring fenced for maintenance for Furze Hill until 2035.
 - **CCLA*** (Investments valuation) **£25,000**
 - **TOTAL FUNDS at year end:** **£233,668**
- (subject to audit)

HPC - BUDGET 2023-24

• Maintenance of Assets:	£25,900
• Administration :	£9200
• Staff Costs:	£18,500
• Village Events, Grants & Contingency:	£8,700
• Capital Costs (Village Hall repay loan):	<u>£16,451</u>
• <u>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE:</u>	<u>£78,521</u>
• SOURCE OF FUNDS: WBDC Precept:	£60,251
	Burial Ground & Bank%, : £3,000
	VAT refund: £3,500
	FROM COMMITTED SUMS: <u>£11,770</u>
	<u>TOTAL: £78,521</u>

SIGNIFICANT FUTURE PROJECTS IN EARLY STAGES of PLANNING 2022 - 23

- **Storage Shed on Playground at Village Hall**
- **Additional Car Parking at Village Hall (jointly working with Village Hall Trust Committee)**
- **Dines Way Energy Storage Battery Installation (proposal from Amp Energy Services Ltd) - note opportunity for income to HPC)**
- **Extension of Eling Way Active Travel Route**

5 off Hermitage PlanApps awaiting decisions from WBDC as at 31 March 2023

- **Land at The Old Farmhouse B4009** - Erection of up to 21 new dwellings.
- **Land at End Of Charlotte Close** - Erection of 16 dwellings.
- **Windmill Farm Yattendon Road** -Replacement of Existing Buildings with 5 Commercial Buildings Units.
- **Change of use of land a)** formation of 5 no Gypsy/Traveller pitches South of M4
& b) to residential Gypsy/Traveller site with 2 no plots North of M4 (adjacent Parish)

ELECTION 4 May 2023

- Finally, just a reminder that our District and Parish Councils are subject to the 4-yearly Election of Councillors on 4 May.
- Many Councillors have stood down this year and I ask you all to consider coming forward as volunteers to represent your fellow residents of Hermitage as insufficient residents have stood to fill all available Councillor vacancies on HPC

QUESTIONS?

