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CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

The last year has been typical for the Parish Council, holding six meetings and moving forward with a number of projects. The most notable activities were:

- Installation of a grit bin at the end of Papley Lane. This section of road suffers from the accumulation of surface water which becomes icy in winter. A shovel has also been placed in the bin to assist public-minded residents in using the grit when appropriate.
- Every community was offered a portrait of King Charles III to be displayed in a public place. This was obtained and is in the Village Hall.
- The Parish Council continues to pay for the emptying of two dog waste bins, one near the phone box and one on Papley Lane. It was recognised that these are being used by dog owners, and reports of dog fouling have declined.
- The Clerk has now been employed for a year and Kerry has ensured that the council operates in accordance with regulations. We feel that the council is in order and in a good position.
- The Council has transitioned to online banking, making banking more secure, less time-consuming, and more efficient.
- Cllr Jill Eaton designed a logo for the Parish Council, giving us a professional, recognisable identity which can be used on the website, and on printed communications.
- Cllr Carrie Walsh has energetically pursued the development of the wildflower areas in the village. Following the over-enthusiastic mowing of one area by the Unitary Authority mowing team, the Parish Council has invested in some signage to prevent this happening in future.

The Parish Council is not standing still and is pursuing a number of long-term projects.

- We are working with North Northamptonshire Council in an effort to obtain gateway features at each end of the village. We hope this will result in slowing down traffic as it enters. A meeting has been held with the NNC Highways officer, and the Council is awaiting costs. Once this information is available, the Council will investigate possible grant funding prior to making a decision.
- The Council has requested that NNC consider the installation of a footway leading up to Papley Lane, as put forward by numerous residents. Initial feedback indicates that although there is no technical problem with doing so, the Parish would be in competition with many other similar schemes for which there is limited funding. The Parish Council will continue to remind NNC of this requirement.

On May 1st this year there will be local elections, including Parish Councils, and we hope there will be residents willing to stand. It has been a long time since an election has been contested in the Parish, so it would be good to see this happen this year.

Cllr Carrie Walsh has decided to step down from the Parish Council after 25 years of service. She has been a very energetic member of the Council, continually working with the former Northamptonshire County Council, the new North Northamptonshire Council, neighbouring parishes, and other stakeholders relating to our projects. During her tenure, Carrie also served as Chair for a period of time. Her achievements are too many to list, and her energy and ability to get things done will be missed. The Parish Council gratefully acknowledges her hard work.