

# **NORTH NIBLEY PARISH COUNCIL:**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23.**

The Council is pleased to present its Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2023. Details of your Councillors and all Parish Council activities can be found on the Parish Council website at: <http://www.northnibleyparishcouncil.org.uk>

**Parish Council Activities.** Your Parish Council has once again been active working on behalf of the Community this year:

The Parish Council:

- met monthly throughout the year;
- in October organised and was supported by many volunteers during the “Village Clean-Up Day”;
- awarded 8 Grants, totalling £1,800, to support local organisations in providing services to people in the Parish;
- has continued to contribute to “On The Edge” as a means of keeping parishioners informed of the Council’s activities;
- worked with Gloucestershire Highways to attempt our road surfaces repaired and maintained ; replenished all existing grit bins during the winter;
- commented upon 29 Applications to Stroud District Council Planning and 2? appeals to the Planning Inspectorate;
- continued to pursue Stroud DC Enforcement Team to ensure that they made progress on Enforcement Notices;
- has maintained and managed the cemetery;
- worked with Gloucestershire Rights of Way team to maintain footpaths within the parish; and arrange for flood alleviation measures on Wood Lane;
- liaised with Stroud DC Neighbourhood Warden to ensure that rubbish dumped on the roadside was collected;
- following the resignation from the Parish Council of Mr Rex Symons, Mrs Jane Burton, and Mr Purnell, co-opted Mr Smitherman, Mrs Carr and Mrs Smith onto the Parish Council for the remainder of the Council’s term; Mr Andrews has subsequently resigned and due process is being followed to replace him;
- contributed to SDC consultations.
- has participated and continues to support the plans to create a new children’s play area;
- has participated in discussions to write a neighbourhood plan;
- continues to monitor hedges when growth impact a public highway;
- looked forward to the extension of fibre broadband to most of the parish;
- renewed its membership of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town councils to access expertise and training for councillors and the clerk;
- in February organised with the PCC and supported by several volunteers in a “Churchyard Ivy Clearance”.

### **Parish Council Property**

The Council owns land, throughout the Parish.

1. **Land at Nibley Knoll.** The Council’s 6 acres at Nibley Knoll are continuing to be managed with the Nibley Knoll Trust to ensure the long term future of the Hill for the Community.
2. **The Cemetery.** Further work has been carried out to maintain the Cemetery in accordance with the long term Maintenance Plan including
  - a) cutting hedges;
  - b) nettles have been sprayed and Cllr Palmer has planted grass seed;

- c) an owl box has been installed in one of the trees;
  - d) thanks are appropriate to Mrs Palmer who has continued to work voluntarily in the Cemetery as well as acting as the Burial Clerk, liaising with funeral directors, monumental masons, grave diggers and relatives of the deceased.
3. **Jubilee Recreation Field.** The Council through their representative on the Trust have continued to work with the Recreation Field Trust.
  4. **The Closed Churchyard at St Martin's Church.** The Council has responsibility for the Closed Churchyard at St. Martin's Church. The Churchyard continues to be the property of the Church, but its maintenance is now the Parish Council's financial responsibility. The council has liaised with the Church authorities and commissioned two surveys of the wall between the churchyard and the old Vicarage with a view to repairing the wall.

#### **Parish Council Finances.**

In 2022/23 the Council maintained the Precept (part of Council tax) at £18,400 for a second year.

#### **Looking ahead to 2023/24**

- In 2023/24 the Council will raise the Precept to £19,500 in recognition of its additional financial responsibilities, this represents an 8% increase over 7 years;
- The Council has organised a tree planting during the Coronation festivities to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II;
- The Council is planning to hold a 2024 Village Clean-Up event. The Clerk has made the necessary arrangements;
- The Council is continuing to look into speed awareness projects, throughout the village. We still hope to install camera on the B4060 through the village;
- An assessment of the trees in the Cemetery will be commissioned in accordance with the Council's Five Year Property Maintenance Plan;
- Would like to ask residents if they would like a Parish Information Board in the Centre of the Village. The Parish Information Board would contain a map of the Parish, showing points of interest and key local services.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend the monthly Council meetings held in the Village Hall.

Mr David Palmer.  
Chairman of North Nibley Parish Council.