

2025/26 Chairs report for Mileham Annual Parish Council Meeting

This year in terms of councillors we have had a difficult year with sadly the loss of three of our councillors, I would like to thank Councillor Wayne Fleming, Councillor Rosie Smith and Councillor Clair Haswell for their time, support and commitment they showed to the village we live in during their time on the Parish Council. We were thrilled to be joined in February by Councillor Richard Cooper, Richard brings with him so many transferable skills we know he will be a fantastic asset to our team. As I write today, we have four vacancies in the council and are hopeful that we will fill these this year. Thankfully we have no changes with the Clerk, thank you Nea for all your work keeping us on track.

This year has been one of the most challenging since I became part of the Parish Council in 2020. One of our aims as a Parish Council was and is to be transparent and accessible for the residents of Mileham. Transparency will always remain and be a priority. However, being accessible we have discovered came at a price. Through social media and at meetings we have found many of us have endured allegations, trolling, rudeness this is not what any of us signed up for. These behaviours resulted directly in the resignation of two of our councillors. Being a parish councillor does not involve payment of any kind we give our time freely and there is far more involved than just attending the Parish council meetings. We all do this to make our village a safe, environment for us all to live in, decisions for the village were near to being handed back to the district council to run as Councillor Clowe and myself had to really think was the abuse worth it? We have stayed to continue with projects we are involved in and to keep the council local, which for us we felt was important. This does mean moving forward things will change. We will no longer be on social media we will limit posts on the Mileham Community page. We have a new website which will be our main point of access, and this is something positive that has happened this year and has been in the planning for a while, thank you Nea for all the work you put in to ensure this was up and running.

At our meetings the public will only be able to speak in the allotted slots and will no longer be able to join in at various points in the meeting, this is how meetings should be held but as chair I always wanted to hear everyone's voices. Sadly, one councillor who has now left was spoken to rudely which is not acceptable and resulted in their resignation. As current chair I must protect the team who want to support and represent our village, kindness and respectfulness is paramount and a two-way process.

As a Parish Council we have continued to move forward with policies in particular the work on the biodiversity policy completed and adopted. Various policies have been updated this year.

The Parish Council are committed this year to apply for additional funding to be added to allocated funds we have in place and purchase our own SAM 3 for the village.

The Parish Council have continued to support other charities in the village and are part of many charities in the village. A grant was given to the Playing field charity which has no income to purchase liability insurance and again to fund the annual external safety inspection.

As a council we have continued to ensure the best interests of the village are considered with planning applications and other developments which have presented this year. For some it has meant we have given our time to attend planning meetings in person.

I would like to thank all our supporters, District and County Councillors who help guide us and keep us informed, members of the public who join our meetings to raise important issues and who bring ideas to the table and to all our councillors and volunteers who give their time.

Councillor Angela Teague