

Binton Parish Council Assembly Tuesday 13th May 2025

Annual Chair's report – Agenda Item 4

It's been yet another interesting, and at the same time fairly quiet year for the parish council with the end of the COVID pandemic bringing some normality for now. There has seemed no end to the continuation of the Ukraine hostilities and the Gaza war. Hopefully things have returned to a semblance of normal in the UK although events in April 2025 which have disrupted world economies may take a while to settle down.

We have local elections on May 1st, 2025, for the County Council and for our SDC district councillor vacancy as Manuela Perteghella was elected as the Stratford upon Avon Member of Parliament. The Parish Council is very much under strength at 5 councillors from a total of 7.

Parish council meetings have continued in person. The Binton WhatsApp group and the Binton Life Facebook page are active and running well. Many events have continued to take place in the last year around the Village Hall. We have continued to maintain the Village Green as well as possible and the Council supports our local church with a small maintenance grant and the Village Hall with a contribution to the running costs.

The Village Hall Committee continues to run the hall successfully with a considerable number of initiatives. The accounts and the Committee's report on the Village Hall activities follows this report. I would wish to minute my thanks once again to Laura Hamilton and the committee. The committee, chaired by Cllr Finch, must be congratulated by the Parish Council on the continued village activities promoted at the hall. Daffodils are currently flowering as part of Binton in bloom funded by the Village Hall. In due course further plants will be obtained and nurtured.

Parish Council activities

The council tried to identify the ownership of the track next to Village Green and adjacent footpath. Subsequent to procuring documents from the Land Registry and much communication it is unlikely there is anyone identifiable in ownership of the piece of track in question. There is no registered title and no known owner. WCC are unlikely to become involved with maintenance of this area. Binton PC will undertake no further work on this matter.

Regarding speeding and traffic volumes which continue to be a focus for residents, the parish council acquired a third speed warning sign. Councillor Piers Daniell was able to contribute £1,000 towards the cost from his WCC fund. Unfortunately, a traffic incident destroyed one of our warning sign posts and damaged the sign which had to be repaired. Insurance did not cover the while cost and the offending motorist has not been identified. We do now have speed and traffic volume data for the centre of the village but, as before, the police take no action to deter speeding motorists. I do not think we will see improvements until the S78 Shottery Western bypass is completed. This work may start in summer this year.

A meeting was convened in February 2025 by Manuela Perteghella with National Highways and others to discuss the S78 road. Binton Parish Council was represented by Cllrs Flaxman and Lloyd. The meeting is reported under the SDC councillor's report, and this is on the PC web site in detail along with all of the presentations and meeting actions. It was good to understand the position of Bloor

Homes who are ready to carry out the work. It may be that road space will be given for the works to start on June or July 2025.

The parish council, in setting the precept for 2025/26 maintained the precept at £7,500 pa. We set aside a budget of £2,000 for unspecified village improvements.

With changes to our local representation and a very much reduced parish council going forward, the year may be interesting. My personal thanks to those residents who have attended our meetings, the Parish Clerk, my Parish Council colleagues, the Village Hall committee and thanks to our local County and District councillors who are both leaving us on 30th April 2025.

Mike Flaxman
Chair
Binton Parish Council