

Chairman's Annual Report 2024-2025

The Parish Council has had a busy 12 months, addressing various matters that have arisen within our community. The two main issues that continue to be unresolved are the footpath into Alresford and the flooding in Water Lane. Other matters the Parish Council have dealt with over the last year include the following:

Highway Matters & Water Lane

- HCC viewed flooding on the B3047 and carried out some remedial work, but more is needed to prevent future flooding.
 - School Lane remains in poor condition. We will continue to follow up with HCC.
 - The road signage decluttering project was completed.
 - The PC tried to establish the ownership of the island on which the phone box is sited. Diseased Ash trees were cleared from the island.
 - A request to widen the footpath at the Water Lane ford was submitted under the Community Funded Highways Infrastructure scheme.
 - A hydrologist was sourced to advise on Water Lane flooding; an initial report has been commissioned to guide future actions
 - There is a continued focus on weed clearance for the Water Lane stream.
 - Mill Lane was resurfaced.
-

Community Matters

- Final publications and signage from the “Whispers of Chalk Stream” project have been completed and will be displayed. The Council was thanked for its support.
 - The Ship Inn has had a change of management. They are undertaking extensive renovations and hope to open in the next few months. We wish them all the best in their new enterprise.
-

Lengthsmen & SID

- The Lengthsmen completed verge clearance on the path to Alresford and quoted £696 + VAT for two seasonal cuts at either end of the village.
 - A dead tree at Riverhead was removed. Additional verge clearance is being considered for the next financial year.
 - The Speed Indicator Device (SID) continues to discourage speeding; some vehicles were recorded at speeds of up to 80mph.
 - A solar panel was purchased and a second solar panel is to be ordered, to support SID units, improving sustainability and reducing battery changeovers.
-

Sun Lane Development & Residential Planning

- We continue to liaise with the developers and will provide monthly updates to the Council.
- Bighton Bottom Farm development is nearing completion, though landscaping works are still outstanding.

Footpaths and Rights of Way (ROW)

- Discussions continue regarding the Alresford footpath; site visits have been arranged with HCC & WCC representatives. A Freedom of Information was requested to gain an insight into the proposed upgrades to the footpath.

Website

- The Parish website remains a central communication tool, updated regularly with planning, community, and meeting information.

Budget

- The draft budget for the coming year was reviewed and approved by the Council.
- The Precept was increased to £10,000 to provide a larger than normal reserve to account for expected cuts in funding from HCC.
