

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – RISINGHURST & SANDHILLS PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

21st May 2019.

This year we have welcomed two new Parish Councillors, Nadia Amin and Michelle Ham, and we hope that they will enjoy the varied work that we do for the community.

We have continued to try and make our Parish a safe place to live, and provide facilities to keep it clean and safe, by installing more dog poo containers, one being in Spring Lane. and salt bins for use in the icy weather, 4 at Sandhills, 1 at Stansfield Close, 1 in Chillingworth Crescent, and 1 in Netherwoods Road. Hopefully this will reduce our cost in salt spreading in our Parish.

We also took part in the local OXclean project collecting rubbish from the streets, earlier this year.

We have continued to support the local community groups by giving out the following grants during the last year;

Wood Farm Parent & Toddler Group £369.50

Risinghurst & Sandhills Community Fete £500

Wheatley Park School Prize Giving £200

Oxfordshire Play Association £250

Collinwood Road UR Church £250

Sandhills School (Forest School) £400

The tree work in the Playing Field has almost been completed, the poisoned oak tree being reduced to a monolith, with only one tree left to maintain at present. We must as this point congratulate, and thank our Parish groundsman, Peter Jacques, plus his many voluntary helpers who keep this open space a wonderful place to enjoy, and very well used by both the cricket and local youth football teams.

We are applying for a WREN grant, hoping to install new outdoor gym equipment in the field, and have formed a new committee to begin to raise funds for a very much needed new Pavilion, but this will be a difficult project without the help of grants and donations. We are asking for the opinions and thoughts of our parishioners during Risinghurst & Sandhills Community Fete on Sunday June 9th, where we are having a Parish Council stall. We are hoping that this will be another successful afternoon, and we have the support of over 800 visitors, as last year.

Mr David Adams, one of our newer councillors, chaired a Public Meeting at Sandhills School to discuss the proposed build at Bayswater Brook up to, and behind, Sandhills Estate, which was extremely well attended, and a lot of support against the proposed plans was given to him, and other neighbouring Parishes that would be affected by a vast new build.. Plans were made, and it showed the solidarity of the

community of Sandhills, especially, and was very successful. Everyone was against the proposed plans at this meeting.

We do have to give a special mention to David Adams, as he has now organised a newer and up to date website for the Parish Council, which will link to other organisations of interest, and be of use to every parishioner, the link being <http://www.risinghurstandsandhills-pc.gov.uk/>. I would like to thank both David, and our Parish Clerk, Sonya Hill, for the very hard work that they both have done on behalf of our Parish Council. Sonya, with her accuracy of the minutes, and financial records, and David for the time he has spent on the website and forming an Emergency Plan for the future.

All other councillors should also be thanked for their continued support for every aspect of community work, and regularly attending and giving their input to our monthly meetings.

Our Annual Firework Display, this year, will take place on Saturday November 9th 2019 in Risinghurst Playing Field, and we hope that this year's will continue to be as well attended as last year's, and be enjoyed by both young and old... Special thanks should be given to those councillors who turn up and work so hard, with Peter to make sure that this event is a success.

We do look to the future, and hope that together with an emergency plan completed, and the creation of a new Parish Plan, with the involvement of local residents, we can move forward with exciting ideas for the future of our Parish.

Thank you all for supporting me as Chairman this year, and for the support from my colleagues who give up their time for the benefit of our community.

Barbara Naylor (Chair. Risinghurst & Sandhills Parish Council) 21st May 2019