



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 / 2024

Welcome to the Parish Annual Report for 2023-2024. The Council has finally moved its operations to our new Parish Office in the sports pavilion at the Ashingdon Memorial Park where our regular meetings are now held, we have had many homes for our meetings in the past including the St. Andrews Church Hall and the Ashingdon Memorial Hall but it is nice to have a permanent office. Our Council Clerk Karen Boyce left us in September 2023 and I thank her for her service during her four years with us. We have now appointed a new clerk Kathleen Parkin and I offer her a warm welcome. We also welcome two new councillors Declan Lynn and David Reed but we still have one vacancy on the council.

We have now completed the changeover of all our street lights to new LED lamps, this has been done at a cost but it has already seen a reduction in our energy bills and will save money in future years. Your Council wrestled with the Precept (Budget) for 2024/2025 to keep the increase as low as possible and settled with an increase of 27.5% which is an increase of £26.66 on a Band D property. Compared with last year it may look a big increase but this was kept low by the council dipping into its reserves which we could not do for a second year.

Unfortunately we have suffered a good deal of ASB in the Parish especially at the Memorial Park with vandalism in the public toilets, pavilion and the park itself, we are working with the Police and Rochford District Council to combat this but it proves very difficult to stop.

Our usual thanks go to the Trustees of the Ashingdon Memorial Hall for allowing the hall to be used for the Annual Remembrance Day Service. This year conducted by Gary Edwards (Deacon) from St. Andrews Church. The event would not go so smoothly without the organisation undertaken by the 1st Ashingdon Scout Group and we thank them for their support.

Your council is considering installing a Multi User Games Area in the Ashingdon Memorial Park and is currently running a public survey via our web site until the end of April to obtain feedback from residents.

Many thanks

Councillor David Catchpole
Chairman of Ashingdon Parish Council