Annual Report

Chairman of Parish Council

In May 2025 we held an election in which eight councillors were elected to serve as Parish Councillors. Following the resignation of Cllr Dalke last year I was co-opted onto the council.

We were all lucky to have Cllr Blackmore as our Chairman throughout 2025 and I have now been passed the baton, serving at my first meeting as Chair in April 2026.

We have also lost our Clerk, Sue Porter and in recent weeks have recruited Vanessa to the role. Both Vanessa and I are new to our respective roles and I look forward to working with her in the weeks and months ahead.

I want to recognise in this report the significant time and effort each Councillor puts into this role for the benefit of the village. It is, I think important to stop for a moment and remind ourselves of the hard work that goes into these roles and all too often there is criticism, when perhaps praise and thanks are more appropriate for the hard work that is invested in the village.

We may not agree, but I am confident that each seek to better the village from their individual perspectives and collectively, when we come together and make decisions, we do so in the best interests to the Parish.

We have in the last year seen;

- A Grant Funding for Traffic the Calming Project – Community Speed Watch
- The agreement to implement a 20-mph speed limit in village (soon!)
- Moved 30 mph limit to village gates plus dragon's teeth have now been imposed.
- Various road repairs (Badby Lane, outside Staverton Park)
- Our liaison with the community payback team has led to the edging out of footpaths within the village
- Clls Thomas has single handedly pursued and created Staverton Matters, our village and Parish Magazine for which she deserves much praise.
- Not to out do us all, Cllr Thomas also applied for and secured a Grant for the Funding for Community Orchard – (Biodiversity Grant). We are soon to see fruit trees planted near the playing field.
- Our Facebook page is up and running again

- We have agreed a policy to ensure that all Parishioners are treated fairly when reports of breaches of planning reach us.
- We have bought the projector for meetings to make documents and issues more transparent
- We have welcomed the public into meetings and sought to engage them in discussion
- We have agreed to match the funding for substantial repairs to the Church Clock up to 50% of the total cost. I know that the clock is very soon to return to the village.
- All Parish Records are now archived with WNC
- We have agreed new entrance signs for the village and those will soon be rolled out.
- WNC have agreed to apply to WNC to consider the Countryman as an Asset of Community Value
- There are new dog waste bins available in the village and new signs on Manor Road
- There is work underway on our Local Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan
- There is a real strive to achieve a bus service for Staverton
- We have replaced the defibrillator

It seems to me that the resolve continues to be there to both protect and promote the village.

I will readily recognise that at times over the last year things have not always been plain sailing. However, I am confident that with sensible approaches and supportive attitudes the Parish Council can continue to do more for the village.

I would like to see in the year ahead an even greater degree of enthusiasm for community spirit. If you want to get involved let us know. If you want to be part of something or have an idea, let us know. If something concerns you, let us know.

I hope 2026 brings new ideas, clear goals and some fantastic results.

AJ Duncan

Chairman Parish Council