Chairman's Speech April 2026

Thank you for joining us tonight at the Annual Parish Assembly.

For those of you that don't know me, I am Hugh Radesk and I have been a Parish Councillor since 2014, and the Chairman for the last three years.

Rotherwick Parish Council has an allocation of seven councillors, however we continue to be a council of just four, and welcome interest from anyone who feels they could support the PC and village as a councillor in the future. On that note I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all of their hard work over the last year and Susan, our Clerk, for supporting us all.

Jonathan Wort is our lead on planning, Hudson Copse and a whole range of community focused projects.

Adam Bealey, who leads on external engagements, grant applications and most recently the successful upgrading of the playground facilities through grant funding, which he will speak a little about this evening.

Sarah-Jane, who is the vice chair, and our lead on legal matters.

Susan, our Clerk who supports a vast range of council activities, including a wide range of remedial works following fallen trees, replacement of broken chicane posts, replacement of street furniture and responding to a whole host of enquires from the parish.

I would also like to specifically thank a number of people this year for their service to the village over a significant period.

I would like to thank the Village Hall committee for supporting the PC, and specifically Sue and Richard Whistler for their dedication to the village supporting the community for decades, through the village hall and Rotherwick Scouts (the oldest troop in the district)

I would like to thank Councillor Glen who has not only supported the parish but also Hart and Hampshire as County Councillor.

It is also great to see a number of community initiatives doing well. Thank you to Ray and Julia for continuing to run the phone box book exchange, and to all those that took part in the recent litter pick in March, removing all of the discarded rubbish from our verges. On that note if you do see people disposing of significant rubbish/fly tipping please report this. Hart has been successful this year with enforcing a number of prosecutions for fly tipping in the district.

This year has seen volunteers working on both ponds within the parish, both the pond in The Street and at Lyde Green. This has been undertaken in consultation with Peter West from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group, to ensure that this was undertaken in an environmentally sensitive way. Thank you to the volunteers who made this possible.

Several improvements have also been made at Lyde Green through S106 developer funding, including installation of a new notice board, and benches on the common land. This is in addition to the works that we have been undertaking to maintain the area, including grass cutting and drainage clearing.

I would also like to thank the Rotherwick News Team for reporting these and many other stories from around the village. It is sad to hear that after so many years this may be coming to an end unless new volunteers step forward. Please contact the current team who would be happy to support through a handover if you are interested.

Furthermore, if anyone would like to express an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact Susan.

In terms of planning, this year has been another quiet year with no major developments or issues, and we have received 29 applications in total (although many of these relate to listing building consent for one property). Jonathan will speak a little more about this and general planning matters.

This year has again seen significantly increased costs to the Parish, and we appreciate that residents are conscious of the increased precept. On this note we have prepared a summary to outline the current expenditure and need for the increase, as we did the previous year.

On this note I will hand over to Adam to provide an outline summary of expenditure and the PC's budget, followed by a short presentation on the upgrading of the playground facilities which have been achieved through grant funding, and discussion on future considerations for amenities around the village.

Thank you for attending, to the speakers presenting and Adam and Sarah Jane for arranging the refreshments.