

## Annual Chairman's Report 2025/26

I present the Annual Report for what has been my eighth term as Chairman of Marstow Parish Council.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for electing me to serve as the Chairman during the 2025/26 period and I look forward to working with you all going forward.

Our main achievements of 2025/26 were:

- We made it through the winter without any major flooding to report at Boat Lane which given the floods at Monmouth we seen back of end of last year is hopefully a sign that the works that have been undertaken at Boat lane have helped albeit we are still in communications with Balfour Beatty and highways about future plans to maintain this. **STOP THE PRESS** Some good news we have received this week from Balfour Beatty is that road works have been planned at Boat Lane for highway repair and maintenance works, this is planned in the near future with a current set date to commence work on 13th July'26. Since sever floods caused boat lane to be closed in the winter of 2024 we have work closely with Balfour Beatty and Highways England to bring to their attention the issues in this area. It is great to see the works that have already taken place with more to come soon so watch this space !
- Maintaining a good relationship with our lengthsman and locality steward has played a productive part in keeping up to date with necessary works in the parish. Keeping on top of the jobs that arise is an item on our agendas every month and is always a work in progress, I have found that appointing a local lengths man and regular communication with our locality steward has helped us achieve this. We have addressed many matters with highways one of which is Boat lane and the drainage under the A40 and overseeing smaller tasks that include replacing road signage that has been damaged as well as signage that has needed cleaning.
- We have overseen and commented on many planning applications this year, more than we are used to seeing and appreciate this might be a sign of things to come in our future. I would like to thank all the residents who have attended the meetings this year and for talking to us during the allotted "open discussion time for the public" in a respectable manner. Whilst it is important to understand that Marstow Parish Council does not have the final decision on such matters we all play an important role in the consultation stage of proceedings. I believe that residents and councillors communicating with one another amicably allows us to voice and address valid issues and concerns together.
- We have been notified of many fly tipping incidents which is sad to hear but good to see that residents are vigilante and pro active in reporting them to us and the council. Many of these have been reported and cleaned up along with requests for potholes to be repaired. I thank everyone for passing this information on to our Clerk and the council and I encourage you to keep doing so in the future.
- I would like to mention and thank Mark Catlin for all of your litter picking efforts in Glewstone, you set a great example actively trying to keep our parish clean and tidy. Thank you ! And keep up the good work.
- Financially we have again maintained a healthy position. Our clerk is as always very in the know with grants and lengths man scheme funding which helps us keep costs down and therefore allows us to look at our precept favourably. We will look to keep utilise such grants going forward to maintain this financial standing

- I would like to thank Kirsten Kysow from West Mercia Police who has attended our meetings throughout the year and has offered good communication and advice to us and residents that have attended our meetings.
- A big welcome to Owen Powell who joined the Parish council at our meeting in January'26, we look forward getting to know you and utilising your knowledge of the local area going forward.
- Thank you Phyll Hannah and everyone involved at St Matthews Church, you keep the Church immaculate inside and out and we are kept very warm in the winter months.

If anyone is keen to support the Church and looking to attend some of the Church events all the information can be found on their website at [www.marstowchurch.org](http://www.marstowchurch.org).

Last but not least I would like to thank all of our Councillors for their time, support and hard work continuing to carry out their important roles locally. This helps to keep our residents safe whilst improving the environment for us all to enjoy.

The Parish Council Members and its Clerk would like to wish all residents a peaceful and relaxed summer.

Alfred Williams, Chairman 2025/26