

# **Report for the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting from the Chairman of the Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley Parish Council**

This report covers activities over the last twelve months, during which six regular meetings were held along with one extraordinary meeting to discuss a planning application and two meetings of the Staff Appraisal Committee to review the performance of our Clerk.

A number of planning applications have been considered and comments made where appropriate. The most significant of these for the community has been the mobile phone mast which is to be installed at Frodesley Hall Farm, providing that sufficient service providers agree to use it. This should provide for much improved service across all three parishes.

Highways continue to require attention. Potholes present ongoing hazards and residents are encouraged to use the "Fix my Street" on-line system to report these and any other issues. Although the Parish Council submits regular reports, additional reports from residents will help to increase pressure to get the necessary work done.

Local footpaths and bridleways are also regularly on our agendas. An order for a new bridleway to cover the track from Pitchford to Golding has been issued following an independent report. However, this has been subject to appeal and is currently back with Shropshire Council awaiting submission to the Secretary of State. Issues relating to the bridleway via Bentley Ford Farm and footpath adjacent to the old Swan Inn at Frodesley are also currently with Shropshire Council. We are looking into improving footpaths through contract and volunteer grass cutting, etc.

Unfortunately, a general lack of funds at Shropshire Council is impacting heavily on services and the Council's ability to process issues and to respond to our requests.

Following an objection from one of the tenant farmers it would seem that a new footpath from Pitchford to Acton Burnell may not be feasible.

A number of projects have been completed during the year; a new bus shelter at Frodesley, refurbishment of the stonework on the Pitchford bus shelter, a replacement noticeboard at Ruckley, painting of the phone boxes at Acton Burnell and Pitchford (25/26 financial year) and, of course, installation of the village gateways at all three villages. The gateways were

installed following complaints from residents regarding speeding through the villages and discussions with traffic engineers over many months.

Unfortunately, associated works by Shropshire Council; formalisation of the 30mph speed limit for Frodesley village and the three approach roads along with better signing of the crossroads; painted 30mph roundels in the road to reinforce existing signage for all villages and removal of redundant signage has been severely delayed due to lack of funds. However, we are advised that this will definitely be proceeding over the next few months.

The Parish Council remains open to providing support to any new community-based groups, particularly if these can make use of Pitchford Village Hall where we have recently approved funding for installation of broadband.

Although not a Parish Council venture, the community Facebook page continues to provide a useful forum for general community issues, events information, offers of unwanted items, etc. The Parish Council is also using this to publish information on meetings, road closures and other items of interest.

The Parish Council continues to fund Village Views which is published quarterly. Thanks are extended to the volunteer group who work hard on this. The group also produces the Village Directory which is funded from local advertising in both publications.

The Parish Council remains in a strong financial position and is continuing to pursue items raised in the Community Led Plan for which funding is set aside.

On a sad note we have lost two residents over recent months who both contributed much to village life; Muriel Perks and John Leighton. Our thoughts go out to their families and loved ones.

Finally, my thanks go to our clerk, Anna Morris, and of course to my fellow councillors, particularly Carmen Cullis, our Vice Chairman and Tracy Johnson who has stood down following her work as a representative for Pitchford. I have stood down as Chairman and you will be in the capable hands of John Long for the forthcoming year.

Paul Harrison

18/5/2025