

The Chairman's Annual Report

Residents of Creswell, fellow councillors, and residents

I am pleased on behalf of the Creswell Parish Council to present the Annual Statement of the Chair for 2025/26.

During this past year, we as a council have operated in accordance with statutory requirements and have maintained transparency and accountability in our decision making.

With this in mind, on behalf of everyone, I would like to thank our Parish Clerk who has guided us and supported us with her expert knowledge, and to my fellow councillors for their knowledge and support. We also welcomed a new Councillor to our numbers and hope, after a period of settling in, they will enjoy their learning experience. I would also like to thank the residents for their continued support and engagement.

During 2025\26, the Creswell Parish Council has remained focussed on serving our residents, and it has been an interesting year.

Thanks to the efforts of our Clerk and my fellow councillors, the Parish Council has remained in financial budget. I feel that we have spent our budget wisely and with careful consideration. We have maintained the upkeep of the grass verges within the Parish and installed a new bench on the corner of Wilkes Wood. Its theme gives a constant reminder of the links in the parish to those who have served in the armed forces.

Our processes have again received independent external scrutiny from our auditors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer thanks to our residents and local Borough and County Councillor, who have attended our meetings, providing extremely helpful updates and who have helped ensure we have been able to fulfil our duties as a Parish Council.

We are delighted to support two youngsters who represent the Royal Airforce Air Cadets and Sea cadets, who will be representing the parish wreath laying duties at the Captain Perrin and Lt Kerr memorials this July.

We have ensured planning applications have been reviewed and managed in line with policy, received and acted upon concerns raised by our residents, and escalating issues when required.

We have recently been informed of a temporary closure (one way) 39 weeks in total of a key route through Creswell into Stafford. This will lead to increased journey time in a long diversion as alternative routes. There are concerns for pedestrians, access to essential services, emergency vehicle access, and impact on local

businesses. We do not know the impact on bus services or key worker/care/relative access to our elderly residents. The council recognises that this issue has the potential to significantly disrupt daily life within Creswell. With this in mind, and after engaging with the residents, these matters have been recorded and shared with the appropriate channels.

It has been a privilege to be the Chairperson of Creswell Parish Council and to work alongside my fellow Parish Councillors and clerk.

We will continue to represent our community, making decisions for the good of the residents, to be open, honest and transparent in our decisions.

I hope this summary can be a useful update for the residents of our Community.