



Hello,

We haven't yet held the May meeting, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, as it is being held later than normal because of the Local Council elections which took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, so, I shall be talking a little about the new council and summarising the Annual Parish Meeting, which was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Community Event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III:**

Firstly, and briefly as there is a more detailed article elsewhere in the Flag, I'd just like to recognise another excellent community event, organised by volunteers, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Bank Holiday Monday. The weather may have been disappointing, but the dedication of all those involved in organising the event and the support of those who came along (without whom it would have been a complete disaster) was most certainly not! Thanks everyone, it just goes to show that Fownhope never disappoints!

**Local Council Elections and Parish Council Vacancies:**

The Local Council Elections took place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Fownhope Parish Council has 12 seats and received 9 nominations. The election was therefore non-contested (as were most, though not all, parishes in Herefordshire), and all 9 candidates were elected. This leaves 3 vacancies and we are keen to fill these as quickly as possible.



Here are the current councillors as elected:

- Cllr Stuart Eames (currently Vice Chair, to be proposed as Chair at the May meeting)
- Cllr Kevin Braybrook (currently Chair, to be proposed as Vice Chair at the May meeting)
- Cllr Mike Simmons
- Cllr Gareth Williams
- Cllr Tim Jones
- Cllr Will Morris
- Cllr Frank Hemming
- Cllr Lavinia Smith
- Cllr Michael Short

You will find contact details, a photograph and a short bio on all councillors on the website at [www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Parish Council is a busy, pro-active council who work hard for the benefit of the community. Current projects include a circular Coronation walk, designed to take in the best

bits of Fownhope; a traffic calming scheme funded by a grant awarded by Herefordshire Council, together with ongoing work with the B4224 Multi Parish Strategy Group; and an application for Quality Gold status of the National Local Council Award Scheme, which demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and is achieving excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

If you would like to join the team and help care for Fownhope and its residents, please get in touch.

Three councillors stood for District Councillor for Backbury Ward and the seat was won by Graham Biggs (Local Conservatives). The Parish Council would like to thank John Hardwick for his support during his tenure over the last twelve years, and look forward to working with Graham moving forwards.

### **Annual Parish Meeting - Celebrating our Volunteers:**

The theme of the Annual Parish Meeting this year was the celebration of volunteers, which King Charles was also keen to celebrate as part of the coronation weekend.



In recognition of this, we would like to create a video to illustrate and celebrate the many varied volunteer roles that are carried out within the village, and would like to ask anyone who volunteers in any capacity to please get in touch. You don't have to be in the video if you'd rather not, but we would like to make sure that we don't miss you!

Cllr Eames delivered a short speech noting his observations about Fownhope's volunteers, which was commended by a local resident over the weekend and as his words apply to so many of you, we thought you may like to read them. They have been published in a standalone feature so please look out for that.

As always, the full draft minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting can be found on the website <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes> for those of you who would like to read all of the reports received at the meeting.

### **Website:**

Finally, just a gentle reminder to keep an eye on the website for updates and information, or subscribe to my emailed newsletter if you don't already receive it.

<https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

### **Dates for your diary:**

- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, Pavilion**
- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm, Pavilion**

**Helen Tinson, Clerk**  
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