

## **Report of the Chairman to Water Orton Parish Council – May 2025**

### **End of term / new civic year.**

To echo the points made at the Annual Gathering of the Parish and the final meeting of the last civic year I would like to place on record my thanks to staff and councillors for their efforts over the past 12 months. And also for the support (and challenge) offered to me over this period too. It has been an honour and privilege to serve the community in which I live and one which I take very seriously.

### **Volunteers**

It is in the spirit of the above notice that I would also like to thank the existing and growing numbers of volunteers that make such an impact on the quality of life within the village and the contribution they make towards our community.

It is true to say that when we rise together, we rise higher. And the greater level of cooperation between village groups the better for everyone.

I'd also like to thank everyone in the village for when they support any volunteer led endeavours.

### **Martin Watson**

At the last Parish Council meeting I detailed that it would be the last before the recent county council elections and thanked Martin for his efforts during his time as county councillor. Whilst it is fair to acknowledge that dealings with County have not always been the most productive over the years, it is only right to note that Martin has always fronted up at Parish Council meetings and at the Annual Village Gathering. When you consider some of the messages he received were pretty robust you have to give credit for his ongoing attendance as part of a very busy schedule.

### **Grant Funding**

Whilst on a reflective note it is appropriate to raise the matter of where the Parish Council has been successful over the last 12 months in attracting new grant funding into the village which has, or will, enable greater enhancements in the village. The Parish Council should be rightly proud in its efforts to identify, support, and administer grants which is crucial given the other financial pressures within the sector and life generally.

### **Community Engagement**

The work done in relation to Community Engagement over the past 12 months has been significant and should continue to bear fruit over the next 12 months if momentum can be maintained. Whilst footfall at the recent Village Gathering may be disappointing, the work on delivering an event which also included the addition of external food stands was considerable and successfully delivered and those involved should be lauded for these achievements.

Steve Stuart – May 2025