Thursday 26 November 2026

(Appendix 2)

Chair's Report – November 2026.

Remembrance Sunday

Water Orton remembered the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the service of their country during conflict.

It was particularly poignant remembrance this year as two ex-servicemen to whom the Remembrance Day commemorations were very important were no longer with us. However, we were honoured by the presence of the families of Roy Charlesworth and Ray Pearce who laid wreaths.

My thanks go to those who made the service particularly special including those from the churches within the village who helped organise all the arrangements.

Three Parish Councillors laid wreathes. Cllr Rees on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Harrison on behalf of the Carnival and myself on behalf of the Borough Council.

Through my borough councillor grant I was able to purchase an extra 60 poppies for display on lampposts which enabled wider commemorations around the entrances and exits to the village as well as near the new war memorial. These poppies are now the property of Parish Council and should help the commemorations for many years to come.

HS2 Survey

Following notification of a survey on the day of the last Parish Council meeting I spoke to representatives at HS2 with regards to the survey.

I expressed disappointment that there was no wider consultation ahead of this process both in terms of content, timing, or distribution.

I have received assurances that the Parish Council will receive invitations in any meetings to consider the results of any survey collection.

JoyArts

I have spoken to JoyArts to help explore issues relating to the signing of any third-party agreement around the installation and subsequent maintenance of any public art installations around the village. A paper is being brought for consideration at the PC meeting on 26th November.

North Warwickshire Area Committee

I have received an approach from the NWAC representative from Baxterley Parish Council to support amendments to the NWAC constitution.

These changes would enable the co-option of skilled and experienced individuals who may be able to support or advise the work of the area committee.

I have agreed, to enable the debate to take place, to second the proposal. I have suggested amendments that no individual who is not a current councillor to have any voting rights.

The changes will take place at an EGM of WALC ahead of their AGM on 9th December.

Closed Session

I have been proud that such a large proportion of our business as a council has been conducted in public. However, as there is an increased amount of contractual business being undertaken there has been a need to detail the possible need to move into private session.

There is however a commitment from myself to see that all items will be reported in public session as much as possible even if some debate and decision making has to take place behind closed doors.

Staffing

The Council has been pleased to appoint Marianne Barber to the position of Special Projects Officer. Marianne lives within the village and has already commenced on the delivery of key improvement projects within the Village.

The position of clerk has been offered and the decision to appoint will be put in front of council for approval.

I would like to thank Cllrs Coldrick and Rees for their work in interviewing the candidates.

These new appointees have been necessitated by the departure of our clerk of 3 years, Rachel Scully. I would like to formally express my thanks to Rachel for her work over the past year in supporting the council in a period of transition and maintaining that stability Rachel will also hopefully continue to support us in the period of induction for the new clerk.

Steve Stuart
20/11/26