

HALLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHAIR'S REPORT

MAY 20TH 2024



HALLOW
—PARISH COUNCIL—

FORMAT OF THE MEETING

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Presentation of Chair's report for 2023-2024
- Thank you and Parish Council Awards to those groups and individuals who have made a significant contribution to Hallow this last year
- Refreshments
- Informal browse of display and
- Chat and questions to councillors

Overview

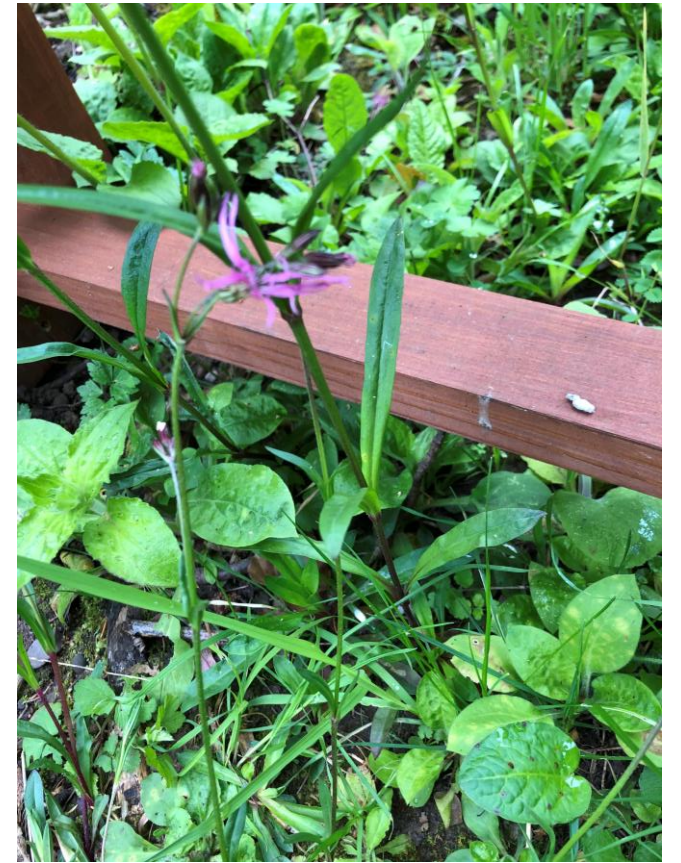
- Precept income to the PC has remained the same and burden on individual households has gone down.
- Management of land assets continues to be by a mixture of contractors and volunteers- this has reduced costs and involved more people with new ideas.
- Manage our land for amenity use, bio-diversity and wildlife. We have a statutory duty on environmental matters.
- Numerous challenging and time-consuming planning matters; including NDP
- Sport, field, pavilion, and play area.

Some specific projects

- Continued to improve the biodiversity of Hollybank.
- Class 7 planted 700 crocus, and volunteers added daffodils, woodland plants and some bluebells - we will continue this in coming years.
- With the aid of Worcestershire Wildlife and Mike Ganner we have used yellow rattle to reduce vigour of grass and to improve the range of wild-flowers.
- Agreed a new management plan for behind Crown Lane, wider paths, more paths, and 4-6 times a year mowing.
- Continued “relaxed management” of Old Churchyard via volunteers, bat, insect and bird boxes, assisted by Class 3 Hallow School .

Volunteers at work!





Increased biodiversity

Events and groups supported

- HVCG D-Day
- Hallow School May Day
- Handmade in Hallow small grant
- Hallow Tennis Club
- Greater support to get local children into sport, including more girls
- Speeding group assisted siting of VAS etc.

Handmade in Hallow



Ongoing and Future Work

- Playing Field Grant obtained - to improve surface and particularly drainage. Required for long-term health of the field.
- Pavilion grant is being pursued, and more up to date costings. We hope to commence this late 2024 early 2025.
- Future housing development - our allocation under the SWDP Revised is NIL (but one can never say never)! Recent Appeal and Complaint.
- Recent national planning legislation and guidance gives our Neighbourhood Development Plan a 5-year life (2021-2026).
- Playground maintenance likely to take place in the next few months.

A Special Thank You to...

- My fellow councillors who work hard behind the scenes
- Parish Handyman John Gwilliam
- Outgoing Clerk Mrs Lynne Ambury
- Volunteers!
- Hallow School for helping out
- Wildgoose Rural Training for bench and compost bins
- Various groups and organisations around Hallow who support us, provide equipment, help and venues.
- Our “Lengths man” and other contractors who help to keep Hallow neat and tidy.

The Parish Awards Ceremony!

- Welcome to our “Parish Oscars”
- Paying a public tribute to those who do so much for Hallow!

