

## Report of the Chair

I would like to open my report, again, with thanks to Trustees and the many volunteers who enable Chaft to operate.

I mentioned last year that we had a full suite of policies, with all the legal and insurance requirements being met. Financially Chaft remains in a stable position thanks to Christine Trotman. Whilst funds 'in the bank' look healthy, this balance should be viewed with our five and ten years plans.

Once again, David Jones has produced the health and safety report for the Hall. Everything is ok. More importantly the plans for the Hall are nearing completion. One of the first jobs for new Committee will be to finalise this project.

Charney Field continues to be well used.

Thanks go to Tim Fitzgerald O'Connor who continues to cut the grass on Charney Field. Once again, many thanks to Bruce Royan for ensuring the field satisfies our field safety policies.

Last year the Woodland Area had been replanted so the emphasis moved to establishing a maintenance plan. This detailed plan is now complete. Many thanks to Steph and John Wright for all their efforts over the last year.

My plan was to bring Charney Field, The Woodland area and Charney Wick Ditch all under one plan. I am pleased to say the final parts of the jigsaw are coming together.

Following a visit from the Environment Agency, David Sibbert was able to draw up a maintenance plan for Charney Wick Ditch. This has been approved by The Environment Agency. The new Committee will need to approve this before it is shown to the Parish Council.

There was one outstanding question from a Resident on the Bridle path. This concerned Chaft exercising our land owners' rights to have access to Charney Field. I have pointed out more than once that this was not Chaft's intention. I am pleased to say Oxfordshire County Council have sent us the original sale document for the field. This confirms that we have access to the Field from Buckland Road.

Two other areas took a lot of time, namely the Constitutional Changes and the Memorandum of Understanding. After the ownership of the Charney Field and the Village Hall had been addressed I had hoped we could have registered these changes with the Land Registry and completed the MOU.

Chaft appointed solicitors to change the Land Registry Documents in April 2022, the consent form was sent to the Parish Council for signing in May 2022. Consent from the Parish Council was granted in October 2022 with a request that we delay sending to our solicitor

until after the Joint meeting in December 2022. The forms were eventually sent in January 2023. At the time of writing we have still not received confirmation this has been completed.

With regard to the MOU, I have to inform you this is still not completed!

Finishing on a positive note, I am pleased to say the Constitutional Changes are now complete. This brings our constitution up to date and enables Chaft's work to be undertaken by groups of Volunteers under the supervision of Trustees following the terms of Reference established by the Management Committee.

It is with great reluctance I am stepping down as Chair and a Trustee of Chaft. I believe you all know my personal situation, this means I cannot guarantee my availability.

During my tenure as Chair my ambition was to have shorter meetings. To this end we now have reports from Trustees and time to prepare for meetings in advance. Unfortunately, we have had some detailed agendae but these were unavoidable because of matters of significant importance. We are now in a position to look forward and plan a Residents meeting. This consultation will give Chaft the opportunity to sound out ideas to ask for confirmation that our plans are moving in the right direction.

I would like to finish with a big thank you for all Trustees, we have all worked hard this year. All the Volunteers that have cleaned the Hall, helped with the Maintenance of the field, planting even more whips and those that have helped with Maintenance in the Village Hall.

Neil Dobson 5.6.23