

ASH PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

This is the second year that I have had the honour of presenting the Chairman's Report to the Annual Meeting of Ash Parish Council. Once again, it has been a very busy year for the council and the parish as whole.

One piece of news that I think everyone will be aware of is that the Chester Bridge (formerly referred to as the Ash Road Bridge) is finally open. It has taken what seems like a very long time in construction and I know it has caused a lot of disruption to residents during the process. Local residents were asked to choose a name for the bridge and the suggestions were judged by some notable local people. The name, which was suggested by both Andrew Reid and Beverley Jennings, reflects the charitable generosity of the Chester family, particularly Dr Henry Morris Chester. It is reported that, in 1895, Dr Chester wrote to the old Farnham Rural District Council stating that a bridge over the railway at Ash was a much-needed improvement, "instead of the present obstructive and dangerous level crossing". Well, Dr Chester, it only took about 130 years to finally get the bridge open, but we got there in the end. Phase 5 of the development, involving major road works on Ash Church Road, still has to be completed.

Our social events, the Summer Fete and Christmas Fantasia were a success once again. I had the opportunity of escorting the Mayor of Guildford round the Summer Fete and she was very impressed. I am sure the boot of her car was filled with plants by the time she left. I would like to extend my thanks to the Events Team on behalf of the council and the whole community. I feel that I particularly have to mention our staff who work very hard at both events. They would not be anywhere near as successful without them. I am pleased to say that we were able to hand over a cheque for £2727.63 to our local food bank which is our nominated charity of the year 2024.

Work is progressing on our Neighbourhood Plan. I think we have all learned a lot more about our village as a result of the evidence gathering process. I would like to thank Cllr Carl Cookson for his work in getting the process going and to thank Cllr Michael Moriarty for agreeing to take on the chairmanship.

In the interests of balance, I think I must mention the difficulties we have had with our lighting contract. I am pleased to say that we have now signed a temporary contract with new contractors who are in the process of getting the lights working again. The council will be carrying out a procurement process for a permanent contractor to take over at the end of the temporary contract.

Finally, it is with great sorrow that I have to report the recent death of Pat Scott who represented our village on both Ash Parish Council and Guildford Borough Council. Pat was very well-known throughout our community. It is very difficult to describe her, and I think I can do no better than to quote the Vice-Chairman's tribute in the Guildford Dragon.

"Pat's dedication to her community and tireless work for so many causes was inspiring. She was a truly amazing woman."

She had an incredible impact on everyone around her, not just through her official roles but through her genuine care for people. From supporting local businesses and charity initiatives to organising events, she really was at the heart of Ash's community.

Pat was a Guildford Borough and Ash Parish Councillor for several years. She also worked with voluntary organisations and charities including the 1st Ash Vale Scouts, the Community Street Team, the Ash, Ash Vale and Ash Green Covid Support Group and the Ash Villages Food Parcels Project.

She raised money for Ash Utd FC through helping make and then selling face masks throughout our community.

This is just a brief insight into what Pat did for us as she was also involved with organising the various events we have in Ash, including the Fantasia and Remembrance Sunday. The latter involved her and her husband Len (no matter what the weather) measuring out the Memorial area and marshalling the right groups to the right place – nothing was left to chance!

Pat liked nothing more than chatting with all and this she did in a variety of ways, talking to people in the street, visiting local businesses for a 'catch up' and even gathering donations for the various events in Ash.

She will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with Len and her family at this sad time”

Councillor Fiona White
Chair of Ash Parish Council

**Ash Parish Council
Income Expenditure**

| A/c Code | Account Name | | 2023/2024 | 2024-2025 *10 months |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 101 | Cemetery | Income | £ 74,143 | £ 59,045 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 38,173 | -£ 26,227 |
| 201 | Lighting | Income | £ - | £ - |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 44,073 | -£ 26,029 |
| 301 | Central Services | Income | £ 3,474 | £ 20,541 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 57,163 | -£ 47,877 |
| 302 | Allotments | Income | £ 4,036 | £ 3,731 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 2,277 | -£ 4,079 |
| 304 | Ash Common Recreation Ground | Income | £ - | £ - |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 79 | -£ 60 |
| 305 | Charity - Carrington | Income | £ 11,530 | £ - |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 11,530 | -£ 1,360 |
| 306 | Charity - Harpers | Income | £ 26,897 | £ 28,424 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 26,897 | -£ 45,696 |
| 307 | Parks/Open Spaces | Income | £ 7,333 | £ 42,946 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 72,172 | -£ 118,397 |
| 308 | Public Toilets | Income | £ - | £ - |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 3,856 | -£ 3,052 |
| 309 | Finance | Income | £ 686,627 | £ 691,504 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 461 | -£ 343 |
| 310 | Ash Centre | Income | £ 42,554 | £ 51,691 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 60,091 | -£ 71,162 |
| 401 | Administration | Income | £ 14,766 | £ 148 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 347,073 | -£ 276,617 |
| 402 | Local Democracy | Income | £ 900 | £ 900 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 4,027 | -£ 1,478 |
| 501 | Community Events | Income | £ 4,083 | £ 3,111 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 10,276 | -£ 6,599 |
| 802 | Capital Projects-CG | Income | £ 11,093 | £ 23,240 |
| | | Expenditure | -£ 31,059 | -£ 39,440 |
| 804 | Neighbourhood Planning | Income | | £ 10,000 |
| | | Expenditure | 0 | -£ 10,115 |
| Total Income | | | £ 887,435 | £ 935,280 |
| Total Expenditure | | | -£ 709,207 | -£ 678,531 |
| Ear Mark Reserves | | | | |
| Opening Balances 2024-2025 | | | £ 856,971 | |
| Spent | | | -£ 133,331 | |
| Closing Balance | | | £ 723,639 | |
| EMR's Spent on (Included in the Expenditure amounts above) | | | | |
| Tree Works within the Parish | | | | |
| Asset Renewals - Fires Doors at Ash Centre | | | | |
| Harpers Scout Hut Repairs | | | | |
| Play Ground Equipment in Shawfields and Ash Rec | | | | |
| Electric Vehicle and Ride on Mower | | | | |

** 2024-2025 is for 10 Months Only