

## Chair Report – Financial year ending April 2024

We are extremely lucky to have a dedicated team of Parish Councillors in Sutton Weaver ably assisted by a very efficient Parish Clerk.

Gerry Jemitus was co-opted as a Councillor in July 2023.

Unfortunately, Simon Richards resigned as a Councillor after 10 years of service due to work and time restrictions. He will be missed and I thank him for all his time and efforts.

Despite careful budgeting and due to rising costs, we have this year been unable to avoid a rise in the council tax precept. As a result the precept was increased.

The PC applied for funding to improve the playground and reached a total of £47,572. The money was used to improve the facility to make it fully accessible to all children. Work has started and at the time of writing is nearly complete with the installation of new swing, roundabout, new gate and hard paths. The playground will reopen in the near future.

I would like to thank everyone who donated to this project and the volunteers who helped in managing the funding process.

Over the past 12 months communication from the police deteriorated yet again. Hardly any attendance at Council meetings and any reports submitted did not include anything specific when incidents in the village were known. We are aware of vandalism in the playground and we are looking for a solution. Members of the community volunteered to open and close the playground and to monitor activity. Many thanks to them.

Speeding on the A56 through the village still continues to be a major problem. As previously reported a Sid was installed on the A56 near to the M56 crossover bridge. It would appear that it is helping to reduce speeding but some motorists unfortunately still completely ignore it.

After long consultation with CW&C Highways they have agreed to reduce the speed limit through the village as follows:

From the Murdishaw roundabout into the village it will be reduced from 60mph to 40mph to the present 30mph through the village. From just passed Halton Station Road it will reduce from 60mph to 50mph over the Swing Bridge and then 30mph into Frodsham. They will not reduce this stretch of road below 50mph.

The cost involved was considerable but Highways agreed to pay 50%. The Ward Councillors donated 25% each and The Daniel Adamson Preservation Society donated £500 greatly reducing the cost to the Parish Council.

This has been accepted by the PC and is presently in the process of being implemented.

The Parish Council requested the installation of a Pedestrian Crossing on the A533 but this was refused due to the cost involved. We know this is important to residents, we are still pursuing it with HBC, who we understand have been allocated the funds from Highways to put this crossing in place.

Car parking in the village remains a major problem with complaints being made to the Council and Police. Please consider other road users when parking and do not cause any obstruction or park in a dangerous position.

Unfortunately the issue of dog fouling in the village still remains a problem. I know many dog owners in the village do use 'dog poo bags' and take the waste home with them or place them in the bins

provided. Unfortunately others do not. I would ask them to please consider others in the community and use 'dog poo bags'.

Events:

All events were held by the Sutton Weaver Residents Community group with appropriate funding from the Parish Council and have proved to be successful.

The Christmas light and sunflower competitions proved popular.

Finally, I would again like to thank those members of the community who continually help the Parish Council.

Big thanks to Mike Pusey for his continued help with the maintenance of the playground, KDE Ltd for erecting the Christmas tree and lights, Kevin from Ecofell Tree Surgeons for pruning the millennium tree and Nick Jones for his removal of the Christmas tree.

We have a vacancy for one Parish Councillor. If you are interested then please contact the Parish Clerk, [parishclerk@suttonweaver.com](mailto:parishclerk@suttonweaver.com) or speak with one of the Councillors.

Brian Starkey  
Chair,  
Sutton Weaver Parish Council