

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON FRIDAY 22nd MAY 2026**  
**IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SOUTHROP. AT 6.30PM**

This is **NOT** a Council meeting; it is a meeting of the residents of Southrop Village. The format of the meeting provides the opportunity for local organisations to report directly to the people of Southrop. Residents will have the chance to ask questions, in an open forum. Refreshments will be available.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr R Giles, Natalie Robertson, Philip Roberts,  
Millie Hibbert

**2. Report from the Chair – Southrop Parish Council**

- **SPC Meetings** - 5 held in the period May 2025 – April 2026, covering issues affecting the village.

- **SPC Finances:-**

Opening balance as at 1.4.2025: £19,433.  
Closing balance at 31.3.26 £20022.

Significant items of expenditure in the year:

£5,050 for 2 storage containers installed at Jubilee Close.

£1,920 on legal and planning advice.

£700 Grass cutting contract with Willow Gardening Services.

£589 for purchase of a new marquee.

Precept - Up from £16,000 to £17,500. Increase of just under £5 (4.6%) for average Band D property.

- **Planning**

The Council looks at every planning application and comments on some. The most significant one this year was the application by Thyme for permission to build three new bedrooms, a spa and other facilities. This received support from some villagers but strong objections from many. The SPC thought some of the objections had validity and urged Thyme to adapt the scheme where possible to mitigate them. Some minor changes were made, and the scheme was eventually approved. Another important application was for the renewal and relocation of the sewage treatment plant off Wadham Close. SPC supported this, the application was granted and the work is virtually complete.

- **Speeding and Cameras**

As most of you will know, Peter Brickley and Russ Giles have been hugely involved in the speed camera system and pursuit of speeders. Two cameras are currently operating and a third is planned.

- **Annual Litter Pick**

This was held on 28/29 March weekend with around 30 volunteers from the village. A wide area was covered linking into other local litter picks such as Eastleach. Many thanks to all who participated.

- **Flood Warden Report**

Cllr Cathy Brickley kindly continues to be our Flood Warden. Cathy reports as follows:-

We hope we have made some progress towards alleviating the Eastleach Road flooding. Gloucester Highways eventually agreed to make a site visit with their drainage engineers and agreed to do a CCTV survey of the current state of the underground sections of the system. This was carried out in March this year.

The trash screen was cleared at the same time but appears to be in a very bad state of repair. They are aware of this and it will be replaced as part of a rebuild of the headwall at the end of the ditch beside The Forge. We still await the full results of the survey but have been advised that the drainage team are reviewing long term options to improve the system.

However, there is no estimate yet of the timescale involved for any of this work. We will, of course, continue to press for action.

We have seen improvements in speeds coming past the school, dropping by several MPH year-on-year. Both cameras are now reporting roughly 85% of traffic at 25mph or less. Those above those speeds are reported to the Police for action. Where these Police warning letters are persistently ignored we are aware the Police can, and sometimes do, find the driver and caution them. We are more than aware of serious speeding on the Lechlade Rd with several regular speeders being identified by their registration plate. Once the new camera is up then each offence will have Police attention, but we await highways, sadly.

- **Fete** – In 2025 the fete raised a remarkable £15300 - £10400 was paid out 4 ways to the hall, church, field and school, while the remainder was used to buy 2 large containers for the village institutions to use for storage. The SPC made a £1600 grant toward this. IN 2026 the fete committee proceeds will go to the hall, church, school and anything over £6k will go to the new playground. The fete is run and operated by the village; we are eternally grateful for the village's support and generosity.

- **Roads** – We have seen Highways active on re-surfacing once more with just the Eastleach road remaining. Many highways' matters are taking extraordinarily long time to make progress. It's almost been a year since we asked for a new pole to mount a camera on the Lechlade rd, several months awaiting a footpath repair and so on. This is frustrating and time consuming in nagging.

### **3. Report from District and County Cllrs**

#### **Cotswold District Council**

#### **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (2026/27)**

Message from the Chief Finance Officer

Cotswold District Council's net budget for 2026/27 is £17.2 million, funded through council tax, business rates, and government grants. Only around 7% of your council tax is retained by the District Council. The majority is allocated to Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Police, and local town and parish councils. Despite reduced national funding over the past decade, this funding supports essential local services, including:

- Waste and recycling
- Street cleaning
- Planning and environmental health
- Leisure and cultural facilities

To maintain these services, council tax will increase by £5 per year for a Band D

home (less than 10p per week). At the same time, the Council is preparing for Local Government Reorganisation, which will replace the current system of District and County Councils with new unitary authorities.

The priority is to ensure strong services and resilient communities for the future. The number of District and County Councillors will reduce from over 320 Councillors to 110 Councillors. In the Cotswolds it will reduce from 42 to 16 Councillors.

#### **Budget Review**

A new three-year Government funding settlement (2026–2029) introduces major reforms, including "Fair Funding 2.0" and changes to business rates.

- A 95% funding floor limits losses during transition
- Council tax increases are assumed as part of funding
- Long-term funding remains uncertain beyond 2028/29

The Council has set a balanced budget for 2026/27, but financial pressures remain significant.

A projected funding gap could exceed £7 million by 2029/30 due to:

- Inflation and rising service demand
- Contractual cost increases
- Limited funding growth

Financial Strategy Priorities

- Tight cost control and efficiency
- Prioritisation of essential services
- Income generation and savings
- Reducing reliance on reserves over time

## **Reserves & Financial Position**

- Minimum General Fund balance: £1.76 million
- Total reserves: falling from £14.21m (2026) to £4.91m (2029/30)
- Financial Resilience Reserve: significantly reducing over time

Reserves are being used to support:

- Service transformation
- Housing delivery and planning
- Preparation for Local Government Reorganisation (£2m allocated)

⚠ Key Message:

Reserves provide short-term stability but are declining, reinforcing the need for ongoing savings and efficiency.

## **Capital Investment Programme**

The Council will invest £19.4 million (2026–2030), including:

- £10.5 million in 2026/27 alone

## **Key Investment Areas**

- Environmental Services – £8.45m
- Housing Delivery – £7.66m
- Leisure & Communities – £2.10m

## **Major Projects**

- New waste and recycling vehicles (up to 31 vehicles)
- Investment in sustainable fuels (HVO)
- Improvements driven by resident feedback on service issues

## **All investment will be funded through:**

- Capital receipts
  - Grants and contributions
  - Reserves
  - Revenue contributions
- No new borrowing required

## **District Councillor Activities**

My role is to liaise with all of the PCs in the Coln Valley and to attend all the Parish Council meetings. I also work closely with the County Councillors and our local MP. In this context I have accessed funding from the County Council for community projects and worked with the MP and the Southrop and Eastleach PCs to action urgent repairs on the road to Kelmscott in Oxfordshire

The District Council are responsible for waste and recycling, street cleaning, planning, environmental health and leisure and culture. Consequently, I serve on the CDC planning committee.

Where appropriate, I work with local community groups and organisations and over the last 12 months I have been involved in projects such as the Bibury Parking Working Group, the Donkeywell

Mobile phone mast and now the Thames water sewerage issues in Quenington.

Having previously run the Poulton Community Shop, I volunteer in the Coln Community Shop and the Southrop Village Hall bar.

### **Local Govt Reorganisation**

Gloucestershire is moving toward either:

- One unitary authority (1UA)
- Two unitary authorities (2UA)

Estimated Costs

- 1UA: £21.3 million
- 2UA: £30.1 million

Cotswold District Council's contribution:

- £1.6m – £2.3m, with £2m already set aside

A shared transition fund and joint governance will manage implementation.

### **Conclusion**

The 2026/27 budget delivers:

- A balanced financial position
- A modest council tax increase (£5/year)
- Continued investment in key services
- A fully funded capital programme with no borrowing

However, future challenges remain:

- Growing funding gaps
- Declining reserves
- Increasing service pressures

### **Looking Ahead**

Long-term financial sustainability will depend on:

- Continued efficiency and cost control
- Service transformation
- Careful financial planning

### **Your Voice Matters**

Investment in services such as waste collection has been shaped by resident feedback. Ongoing engagement remains vital in shaping future priorities for the **COLN VALLEY Ward**.

### **Cllr David Fowles**

**Conservative District Councillor**

**Coln Valley Ward, Cotswold District Council**

**07747 012256**

**Coln Valley Ward PCs: Coln St Dennis, Bibury,, Quenington, Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop, Eastleach, Southrop**

\*If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting District Council officers or other agencies relevant to your query. \*

\* For more information on how I and the District Council use personal data

visit <http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-data/data-protection/>

<<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-data/data-protection/>

<https://www.cotswoldconservatives.com/>

#### **4. Report from Southrop Primary School**

Southrop Parish Meeting Report May 2026 Southrop Church of England Primary School continues to provide a nurturing, inclusive and values led education for all children. The school remains committed to ensuring that every child is known, supported and encouraged to flourish both academically and personally. Throughout the year, the school has continued to focus on strengthening outcomes for all children whilst maintaining a strong emphasis on wellbeing, inclusion and community engagement. Staff have worked tirelessly to support children's learning through a broad and enriching curriculum alongside a range of pastoral and emotional wellbeing interventions. This commitment is reflected in the continued growth of the school, with pupil numbers increasing from 38 children at the start of the academic year to 45 by the end of the year. This encouraging growth reflects the positive reputation of the school within the local community and the confidence families continue to place in the quality of education and care provided. We are particularly pleased to report the strong academic progress made by children leaving the school at the end of Year 6. Southrop C of E Primary School was recently recognised as being ranked 36th out of 300 primary schools across Gloucestershire for pupil progress. This is a significant achievement for a very small rural school and reflects the dedication of staff, the resilience of children and the strong partnership between school and families. It demonstrates the school's commitment to ensuring that all children are well prepared for the next stage of their education. The school has also benefited from a stable and committed staffing team, whose dedication and care continue to be a real strength of the school. Staff work collaboratively to ensure that children receive high-quality teaching alongside strong pastoral support. Continued professional development remains a priority, enabling staff to further strengthen provision across teaching, SEND, wellbeing and curriculum development. A key strength of the school continues to be its enriched curriculum, providing children with a wide range of memorable learning experiences linked to topic-based learning across the year. Children have benefited from educational visits and cultural experiences including trips to Oxford Castle and Prison, Cotswold Wildlife Park, the Cheltenham Literature Festival, Forest School sessions, the Ashmolean Museum, pantomime performances, the opera and the Fresh Air Sculpture Show. These opportunities help broaden children's experiences beyond the classroom, deepen curriculum understanding and foster creativity,

curiosity and confidence. There has also been a continued emphasis on sport and physical activity throughout the year, with children participating in a wide range of competitions and festivals including cricket, football, tag rugby, netball, hockey, cross country, the SEN Panathlon, swimming gala and dance festival events. These opportunities have encouraged teamwork, resilience and confidence whilst promoting healthy lifestyles and inclusion for all children. We are delighted that the school has once again been awarded the Gold Award through the School Sports Partnership in recognition of its continued commitment to high-quality PE and sporting opportunities. The school has also been proud to achieve the Gloucestershire Healthy Schools Award this year, recognising its ongoing commitment to promoting children's physical health, emotional wellbeing and positive lifestyles. Building on this work, the school is now moving forward with the Gloucestershire Mental Health Champions programme, further strengthening its focus on emotional wellbeing, early support and positive mental health across the whole school community. Alongside this, the school has begun developing its Climate Action Plan to support both the County and Diocese commitment to the "Let's Go Zero 2030" initiative. Through curriculum opportunities, child leadership and practical environmental actions within school, children are being encouraged to develop a greater understanding of sustainability, stewardship and caring for God's world. This work reflects the school's commitment to environmental responsibility and preparing children to contribute positively to the future of their local and global communities. The school remains extremely grateful for the ongoing support of the PTA, whose hard work and fundraising efforts continue to make a significant contribution to school life. A particular highlight this year was the Christmas Tractor Run, which brought together families and the wider community in support of the school. Funds raised through PTA events have helped enhance and adapt playground provision, including improvements to outdoor resources, additional storage and playground markings, creating more engaging and purposeful play opportunities for children. The PTA also generously shared proceeds from fundraising with the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity, supporting the vital emergency service it provides across the region. The school is also proud of its strong relationship with the Church and wider parish community. Collective worship, church celebrations and community events continue to provide valuable opportunities for children to develop spiritually and socially whilst strengthening links between the school, church and local residents. In November, the school welcomed its SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection, which recognised the school's strong Christian vision and nurturing ethos. The inspection highlighted the caring culture of the school, the strong relationships between children and staff, and the commitment to ensuring that all children are able to flourish academically, socially and spiritually. The report also recognised the school's inclusive approach to supporting vulnerable children and the strength of its links with the church and wider community. The SIAMS report is available on the

Southrop C of E Primary School website. An additional area of focus for the school has been preparing for the introduction of the new Ofsted framework whilst continuing to await our next inspection visit following the October 2023 inspection. As a school, we have remained proactive in addressing the priorities identified within the previous report and in strengthening provision across all areas of school life. Particular progress has been made in developing curriculum sequencing and enrichment opportunities, strengthening assessment and monitoring systems, improving attendance and pastoral support, and ensuring that children with SEND and disadvantaged pupils are increasingly well supported through targeted interventions and inclusive practice. The school's growing pupil numbers, strong Year 6 progress outcomes, positive parent feedback and continued success in areas such as sport, wellbeing and enrichment all reflect the ongoing work undertaken by leaders, staff and governors since the last inspection. Governors continue to monitor progress carefully against the school's improvement priorities and remain committed to ensuring that children receive the highest quality education and support possible. Governors and staff remain ambitious for the future and are continuing to develop approaches to monitoring the impact of wellbeing and inclusion strategies alongside academic outcomes. The school is grateful for the ongoing support of the parish, church and wider community, which continues to play an important role in the life of the school

## **5. Report from Jubilee Close Committee and selection of new Committee**

**Activities on Jubilee Close** - Apart from general exercise and dog walking, the field continued to be used regularly by the Clanfield FC girls' and boys' football teams, as well as by children from the school, throughout the year. Some Village residents also held (predominantly children's) social events.

**Dog Agility** - (a dog-training and grading organisation) rented the field for three days in August. Several issues arose in connection with this activity; however, these were subsequently resolved with the organisers, who undertook to ensure there would be no repetition in future years.

**Husbandry and General Maintenance** - Further shrubs were planted around the field during the year.

**Debris and Cleanliness** - Some issues arose in connection with Clanfield FC's activities during the season; however, these were subsequently resolved with the organisers, who undertook to ensure that the field was left tidy following their games. They also undertook to remove their dugouts and to mow and roll the pitch themselves.

Again, for reasons of good neighbourliness, hygiene, and social responsibility, all residents are requested to take their litter home after using the field and, in particular, to dispose of all dog excrement and waste bags in one of the designated bins located throughout the village.

**The Pavilion** -Colin Medley undertook some plumbing and refitted damaged/worn-out toilet seats.

All residents and visitors are again requested to take their litter home after using this facility.

**Finance and Insurance - Annual Return** - The Annual Return for 2024-2025 (01.08.24 - 31.07.25) was prepared by Andy Howarth, submitted to and approved by the Charity Commission.

**Headline figures:**

**Income: £8,901.80**

- **Expenditure: £3,869.51**
- **Account balance: £14,731.27**

**Outgoing Expenses** - The Charity met all its financial obligations throughout the year. These included:

- **Insurance: £574**
- **Mowing: £850** (representing a saving of ~ £200 compared with previous year)
- **Cleaning: £20/month**
- **Water: on average, £30/month**
- **Electricity: on average, £50/month** (represents a saving of £500 compared with previous year)

**Income**

Income received included:

- **Clanfield FC: £100/month\***
- **The School: £650/annum**
- **Dog Agility: £250**
- **The Fête: £2,600**
- **The Shoot: £1,900**
- **Ed & Clare Morris: £30 (fee\*\* in respect of their soakaway).**

\* Clanfield FC is uncertain as to whether it wishes to continue using the field after the current season.

\*\* Fee to be reviewed.

**The Jubilee Close Committee (JCC)** - For the benefit of any attendees new to the Southrop Annual Parish Meeting (APM), the terms of reference for the Jubilee Close Committee (JCC) (designated the "Committee of Management" \*\*\* in the 1939 Conveyance document) provide for three elected Members, appointed or re-appointed annually at the APM, together with a chairman and one Trustee. Any other Trustee and/or members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the JCC. \*\*\* (For Jubilee Close *per se*, the Pavilion and any other structures on the field).

Current (elected) Committee Members are Ray Kolzack and Ben Platts: regarding the 'numbers', therefore, there is a vacancy for another elected

Member, so other volunteers, male or female, are warmly encouraged to apply to join the Committee, either today or later.

In accordance with its definition in the 1939 Conveyance document, as owner of Southrop Manor, Jerry Hibbert is currently Chairman, as well as a Trustee; one or more other Trustees make up the JCC.

No formal Committee meeting was held, but the Trustees (see below), jointly and severally, devoted considerable time to diverse matters affecting the `Close throughout the year.

At this stage of the Meeting, it is appropriate for those present to agree on the re/election of existing Committee Members and/or the election or co-option of any new Member/s.

**Members Re-appointed / Appointed Dr L Brooks, Mr A Howarth, Mr J Hibbert, Mr R Kolczak, Mr B Platts**

## **Trustees**

### **Charity Commission Trustees**

Andy Howarth (AH), Jerry Hibbert (JH), and Leonard Brookes (LB). AH also acts as Treasurer, Secretary, and *de facto* general factotum for the JCC.

**Land Registry Trustees** - Again, for the benefit of any attendees new to the APM, in 2007 Graham Boydell and Leonard Brookes were legally appointed by the then Parish Council to act as the two Trustees for Jubilee Close for Land Registry purposes. They acted in this capacity for over 18 years, also achieving Absolute title for the land in 2023.

In 2023, however, the Parish Council deemed that the Charity *per se* should become the sole Trustee. This gave rise to the complications reported last year, and continuing, to the extent that there is currently no formally appointed Land Registry Trustee.

For the Charity *per se*, to become the sole Trustee, a Deed of Variation must be executed.

Unfortunately, although Alison Fielden & Co., Solicitors (Cirencester), have been working on behalf of the Council for more than a year to resolve the matter, they have not yet completed their brief (various reasons).

**Future Activities** - Damage to the plasterwork resulting from repair work undertaken last year still requires attention.

A rolling five-year plan for the rejuvenation of the playing field and Pavilion is to be developed.

Concerning the rabbits' burrows and the potential hazard they present to field users, sharpshooter Paul Freebury has been engaged to undertake a rabbit-culling programme.

As a consequence of the extreme weather experienced in recent years, the condition of the field has deteriorated. AH commissioned a report outlining proposals for improving and upgrading the field, but full implementation of these will depend on the award of a Football Foundation grant or other funding.

The JCC will review the grant application process in due course: any assistance from volunteers with relevant application experience, or an interest in helping with this process, would be greatly welcomed.

The rental of a strimmer to assist in controlling unwanted vegetation (inc. the sloes) is to be investigated.

#### **Miscellaneous –**

**a.** The JCC agreed to the installation of two shipping containers for storage purposes for other Village activities (now completed; situated at the north-west corner of the field).

**b.** As he requested, young metal-detecting enthusiast, Master Hector Giles of Apple Tree Cottage, was granted permission to metal-detect on the field. His discoveries to date have included a 1927 King George V penny, a 1938 King George VI penny, what is believed to be a nineteenth-century flat brass button, the numbers from a darts board, and his first 'hoard' of four modern pound coins recovered from a single hole. Numerous additional pieces of metal debris were also located and responsibly recycled.

Hector has asked that his sincere thanks be conveyed to the Trust for granting permission for these explorations!

**Closing Remarks** - In closing, the JCC would like to thank everyone who contributed to tidying and maintaining the field and Pavilion during the year, and for all other complementary activities undertaken, visible or unseen, in the interests of the Charity.

#### **Leonard Brookes**

## **6. Report from St. Peters Church**

*This report covers 2025 (January to December) and anything relevant in 2026 up until end of April*

At the PCC meeting of April 2025, we decided that as congregations were dwindling to the point where in some cases nobody turned up for services at all (other than those officiating), we should hold only two services a month instead of weekly. As a result, instead of the 64 services we had in total in 2024, we had only 49. In 2026 there will be fewer still, but since the reduction in services, the number of attendees

at our default services has risen from an average of about 7 or 8 to about 10. The numbers attending special services: Easter, Remembrance, Carols and Christmas for instance, have remained good. In 2025 services included 1 baptism, 1 wedding and 3 funerals. The lime trees were left unpollarded in 2025, but alternate ones have been pollarded in 2026, and the remaining ones will be next year. As usual, we had the windows cleaned, the moles dealt with, and the organ serviced – this time by a new company. A feature of 2025 was the refurbishment of the bell frames & ropes; these are now fully operational again. A feature of 2026 are the new wooden steps allowing accessibility for the infirm to the north door. Also, this year in February the graveyard was given a full trim back and clearance.

A project that still remains for the future is our oil-fired heating system. It will have to be replaced at some point before it fails, but currently, due to the church regulations and the expense of switching to electricity, we're kicking the can down the road. We had two requests for grave spaces to be reserved. Permission from the vicar was granted for both, and they are now awaiting a faculty to be granted too. At which point markings on the ground will be made and on the churchyard plan.

I attended a meeting of churchwardens in Cirencester to discuss the Parish Share. It led me to look at the varying amounts of Parish Share paid when compared to the relevant population paying it. That showed that Southrop was paying a lot more than similar villages per head of population. I wrote to our Archdeacon saying that Southrop was struggling to pay its Parish Share, and that I thought we should pay less. The only response I had was a request to share the letter with others up the line, to which I said 'please do'. Eventually I wrote again saying that I would take the lack of response as concurrence, and that from January 2026 our Parish Share would be reduced from £16,000 per annum to £10,000. There has still been no response. I'm not even sure anyone has noticed.

I must thank Southrop resident Steven Bishop, who is in the process of taking over from Charles Llewellyn as PCC treasurer. Many thanks to him for stepping into the breach and thank you to Charles for his past hard work.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who work so hard to raise funds for the church – especially for the bells last year – the fete committee, the Shoot and the recent Open Gardens weekend for instance. Without these efforts and the support of the village residents for them, the church would be much reduced. I would also like to thank the PCC for their support, and of course, our vicar and those who give up their time to lead our services. Last but by no means least: thanks go to verger Martin Bacon who tirelessly opens and closes the church every day, and generally keeps a watchful eye on it, and Rachel our long-standing organist.

## **7. Village Hall**

Open Gardens Southrop Open Gardens Weekend 2026 was a great success. A huge thank you to everyone who took part whether opening their gardens or helping with ticket sales, raffle, teas, plant sales or parking on Jubilee Close. The net total raised was £6600. This amount will be split equally between St Peter's Church and Southrop village hall. A donation of £250 will be made to Southrop Primary School for their garden which gained a very positive response from visitors. A number of 'tweaks' and improvements have been identified for Open Gardens 2028 not least managing traffic in the village and the direction of visitors from Jubilee Close to the village hall. These notes and ideas will be passed on to whoever steps forward to run the 2028 event. Probable dates for planning purposes are Saturday & Sunday 13th/14th May or 20th/21 May 2028.

The Chairman's report for 2025/26 has been submitted to the Clerk. In short, the village hall continues to flourish and remains at the heart of the community. The Snug is still proving very popular and provides a steady source of income. As at 31st December 2025 the hall had accumulated funds of £24,091 therefore the village hall is in a very stable financial position. This has allowed the committee to start work on planning the refurbishment of the loo area. The provisional plan is to demolish the current gents and ladies' loos and replace them with three unisex cubicles which will each have wash hand basins, dryers etc. The area will be decorated in a similar style to the Snug to provide some continuity. Knead on Wheels bakery is becoming a familiar sight in the village hall car park and is being well supported. Their next visit is on Sunday 31st May from 11.30am to 12.30pm. The remaining 'big' events at the village hall in 2026 are the summer party on Saturday 11th July and the annual quiz night on Saturday 10th October with Cotswold Chippy in attendance.

Village Play Area Following the demolition of the existing play area earlier this year, fundraising for the new area has continued apace. Current donations stand at approximately £13,000. A £3000 grant from GCC is awaiting final approval. A decision on a grant application to the National Heritage Lottery fund is awaited. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has donated so far. As a very rough guide and having looked at three equipment quotes and quotes for fencing and wood chips the final total needed will be approximately £30,000 (this includes VAT). This should be enough to get the job done and provide a 'fund' for the ongoing inspection and maintenance of the new area. We will need to clear the current ground and distribute the wood chips on a self-help basis to keep costs down. It would be good to complete the project by the end of 2026, but this might slip to Spring 2027 depending on how busy the equipment supplier is.

**Annual Trustees Report Southrop Village Hall Introduction:** We are pleased to present the Annual Trustees Report for 2025/26 for Southrop Village Hall. This report provides an overview of the activities

and achievements of the trustees and volunteers who have worked relentlessly to maintain and improve the facilities and services of the village hall.

**Activities and Achievements:** The hall has been used to host a variety of events and activities, including community meetings, social gatherings, children's parties, and fitness classes. The hall is also used by the village school for plays, SATs and indoor gym lessons. In addition to funds raised from village hall events the hall has received a share of funds from Southrop Village Fête, and Southrop Clay Shoot. The trustees are most grateful to the volunteers who organise those events for their continued support. The village shop and Post Office continue to provide a vital service to the local community. Following a successful trial in 24/25 the Community Hub has continued to open on alternate Saturdays. This has proved very popular and had been a regular source of income. It has provided a friendly, inclusive environment and it has been particularly satisfying to see the number of families that have made use of the facility. The hall has purchased a TV license and recently screened a number of Six Nations matches. These events were well attended, and similar screenings are planned in the coming months.

**Challenges:** In addition to capital projects the trustees are aware of their responsibilities regarding the ongoing maintenance of the building and grounds. The focus of attention is now on the loo area which is in need of 'modernisation'. The playground has been demolished and the area cleared. Fundraising is underway and a number of quotations have been received for a complete rebuild.

**Health and Safety:** The trustees continue to review all health and safety policies, procedures, risk assessments and records to ensure the continued safety of village hall users.

**Future Plans:** Looking ahead, the trustees are committed to continue to improve the facilities and services at the village hall, and to maintain its position as a valued community asset. This will involve ongoing maintenance and repair work, as well as initiatives to encourage greater community participation and engagement. The trustees invite and welcome ideas from the Southrop community on how they would like to see the hall develop. **Conclusion:** In conclusion, the past year has been a successful one for Southrop Village Hall. We would like to thank all the trustees, volunteers, and users of the hall for their continued support and commitment, and we look forward to building on this success in the future.

**Phillip Roberts**

## **8. Report from Police**

With the recent IT system change, there is not currently a way to obtain data for the amount of crime in a parish during this performance year. Off the top of my head I don't think there are any crime trends or issues of note that need mentioning.

It would be good to mention to the Parish that the team of 2 have been busy over the course of the year with numerous issues across the patch. The general crime trend across the patch has been burglary. We have been carrying out home crime prevention visits and engagement with the wider affected communities.

In addition to that we have been visiting clubs, schools, police information points. Working with retail and dealing with Mental Health, Domestic violence, ASB, Fraud, safeguarding vulnerable young and old and Neighbourhood disputes.

## **9. Other reports**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

**Any queries please contact the Parish Clerk:-**

**e-mail: [clerk@southrop-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southrop-pc.gov.uk)**