

Chairman's Report – Womanswold Parish Council

Dear Councillors and Members of the Public,

I would like to bring to your attention an incident involving our Parish Clerk and a parishioner. This council is committed to ensuring the well-being and security of all those who contribute to the running of our community.

On ,21/01/25 while carrying out her duties, the Parish Clerk encountered a parishioner in the churchyard during the evening. The unexpected nature of the meeting caused her concern, and she briefly considered stepping down from her role. However, with the support of colleagues, she has decided to continue her valuable work with the council.

The council acknowledges that tensions sometimes arise, but it is important that all interactions remain respectful and constructive. We remain committed to conducting our affairs with professionalism and in the best interests of the parish.

In response to this event, I propose that we review measures to improve safety for council staff and members. This may include assessing lone-working policies, improving lighting in certain areas, and ensuring all concerns are appropriately addressed.

I encourage all members of the council and the public to work together to foster a community built on mutual respect and cooperation.

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Stuart and Janet for kindly allowing us to place the parish defibrillator on their wall while we work towards securing a permanent home for it. Their generosity and community spirit have been invaluable, and I am grateful to the whole community for coming together and freely giving their time and effort to ensure this important task was completed.

I would also like to thank Carol, Cathy, and all the parishioners who attended the church carol service. Special thanks go to Councillor Croft, who gave a wonderful reading during the service. It was a joyous occasion that reflected the strong sense of togetherness in our parish.

As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with a sense of excitement and recognition of the changes around us. The challenges faced by the NHS have been well-documented in recent months, and in response, the parish council is pleased to announce that we will be offering a free familiarisation session on performing CPR on both children and adults. This will take place on **5th March**, with the assistance of paramedics and, hopefully, a nurse, who will

provide the training free of charge to all parishioners. There will be two sessions on the day, and we look forward to sharing further details soon.

In addition to CPR training, we are also exploring the possibility of providing future training sessions on the use of critical haemorrhage kits. These initiatives are part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our community.

I am pleased to share that we will be co-opting a new councillor in March, and we look forward to welcoming them to the team. Their contribution will no doubt help us continue to serve the parish effectively.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has been litter-picking around the parish. Your efforts help to keep our village such a marvellous place to live, and your hard work is truly appreciated.

End Message