

Westleton Parish Council - August 2026

I'm very much hoping that by the time this edition lands on your doormat, there will have been some meaningful rainfall. As I write, the **Common** is like a tinderbox, and the Parish Council would like to remind everyone to exercise extreme caution when having barbecues or bonfires anywhere near the Common.

I know that our **allotment** plot-holders are also performing every rain dance available at the moment. Thankfully, Essex and Suffolk Water finally signed off the allotment site's water supply in late June, which is some relief. I'm also pleased to say that our allotmenters now have a space to sit and socialise, following the very kind donation of some repurposed picnic benches by Frances and Kevin Berry.

Speaking of benches, the **War Memorial** garden is now home to a smart new bench generously donated by The Westleton Crown. I'll put a coat of protective varnish on that shortly as part of my garden maintenance, which I've started taking care of for the council on a self-employed basis - please do feel free to get in touch with me by email if you have any suggestions for the garden in the months ahead.

Responses to the **Village Survey** are continuing to trickle in, with around one-third of residents having now responded. It would be excellent if we could increase this to at least half, so if you've not yet responded to the survey, please do so before **31st August**. As a reminder, you can access the survey at: **www.westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/villagesurvey** or by scanning the QR code. Paper surveys are still available to pick up from and drop off at the Village Hall, the Post Office, The Crown pub, and the Church.



On the administration side, the Parish Council has had a busy time in respect of **planning applications**, working closely with our colleagues at Darsham Parish Council to formulate a response to proposals to convert a former nursing home in Darsham into a 41-room aparthotel. Both councils have committed to pooling resources and working together more closely on planning matters going forwards.

Continuing on the theme of inter-parish co-operation, Westleton and Yoxford parish councils are exploring ways they can work together to put the finishing touches to their **emergency plans**, and Westleton is continuing to work with neighbouring parishes in respect of **Sizewell C** traffic and the B1125, attending two meetings on the subject in July, one of which was with Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP. Reports on these meetings can be found on the website. The next SZC Northern Transport Forum will take place on 5th August - please just drop me an email if you have any questions that you would like raised.

The Parish Council's **internal audit** was completed in June with a positive report, and I have now put together an audit action plan to address the recommendations made. The council's accounts are open for public inspection until 10th August, and the full-year accounts, internal audit report, and audit action plan are always

available to view online at **www.westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/financial-information**

Finally, in a change to the information published in my last report, the council has decided to coincide its **monthly surgeries** with the regular Soup & Pud event at the village hall, and so the timings have changed slightly to **12:30 to 13:30**. Please check the website or noticeboard for the latest surgery dates.

As always, I can be contacted at **clerk@westletonparishcouncil.gov.uk**, and I wish you all a lovely rest of your summer!

Richard Green
Clerk to Westleton Parish Council