

# Ditchingham Parish Council

**Keith Weston (Chair)** is the retired Head Teacher of our local primary school. Elected to the Council in 2010, elected Chair in May 2015, and Chairs the Council's Finance and Resources Committee.



*After his boyhood in Kent, Keith's teacher training and first teaching jobs were in London. After a deputy headship in Cambridge, in 1983 Keith, his wife and two young daughters moved to Ditchingham when he became Head Teacher of the local primary school. He retired in 2007.*

*The family has been fully involved in village life: Keith has chaired the Play Association (which established the play area.) He is currently Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee and of the Ditchingham United Charities.*

[Tel. 01986 892326; email [keithweston@talk21.com](mailto:keithweston@talk21.com)]

**Alan Larkin (Vice Chair)** was co-opted to the Council in 2015.



*Originally from Essex, Alan left school at 18 and joined Barclays Bank, working for them for 27 years before accepting voluntary redundancy, following a national Management restructure in 1998. His last role at that time was as a Senior Administration Manager in the Ipswich/Suffolk Coastal area. Since then he has worked as an Admin. Manager for the Suffolk LEA, and as a Bank Charges auditor for Which? His last job was as a Housing Officer for Waveney District Council. He left to retire early 3 years ago.*

*Since retirement, Alan is a collector for Marie Curie, a volunteer at Emmaus one morning a week, and delivers the Parishioner to 40 residents. His hobbies are rambling, cooking, and vegetable growing and he has been an allotment holder for 6 years. Alan has lived at his present address in Ditchingham since 1988.*

[Tel. 01986 895507; email [alanlarkin@btinternet.com](mailto:alanlarkin@btinternet.com)]

**Marie Allen** was co-opted to the Council in 2016 and Chairs the Planning and Highways Committee.

*Marie has lead a nomadic life style experiencing more than a dozen counties in the UK together with time overseas, before deciding that Norfolk was the place for retirement. Bought property in Ditchingham in 2000 and after extensive renovation, downsized and moved in December 2015. Worked as a secondary teacher before moving into industry specialising in commodity buying and operational Facilities Management. Set up an independent consultancy business providing interim solutions to companies throughout the UK. Now semi-retired and enjoying travel, gardening and jam making, and traditional handicrafts.*

[Tel. 01986 896121; email: [marie@maan-associates.co.uk](mailto:marie@maan-associates.co.uk)]

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**Brendon Bernard** was co-opted to the Council in 2014 and Chairs the Local Development Committee.



*Brendon was born in Hampshire and as a youngster lived abroad, but schooled in the UK. His parents bought a summer house near Wangford Suffolk in 1965 and have been coming here regularly ever since, sailing in Lowestoft, Oulton Broad and Gorleston. He lived in London for the past 38 years with regular visits back to Suffolk and married to an artist with two children and now 4 grand children. He worked as a Shipbroker in London, before started Wilstow Ltd with warehouse near Cambridge selling trailers, car roof boxes and Internet auto accessories to major retailers.*

*Brendon moved to Ditchingham in 2013 and now semi-retired with main hobbies, sport, walking, gardening and travel.*

*[Tel. 01986 893240; email [brendonbernard@me.com](mailto:brendonbernard@me.com)]*

**Sharon Cheer** was co-opted to the Council in 2017.



*After bringing up her children, Sharon moved from Essex with her new partner to settle in Ditchingham in 2004, and then married Doug in 2005.*

*She's had various employment over the years, in; Retail, Education, Youth Work, Office settings, Hospitals, Public Organisations, Driving, Temp work to name but a few. Sharon likes to keep busy doing courses and qualifications and in 2014, completed an A level in Horticulture / Design at Easton College.*

*In the past, she has enjoyed doing many volunteering roles with charities and organisations and currently I volunteer for; British Red Cross, Citizens Advice and Suffolk County Council as an Independent Panel Member.*

*Her hobbies are: watching wildlife, gardening, growing flowers and organic vegetables, visiting auctions and keep fit by playing League Table-tennis and beginners Pilates. She is always keen to know what is happening in our village and try to play a part in its future, especially enjoy attending village events, such as the Community Café, fetes and the Open Gardens.*

*[Tel. 01986 892920; email [sharoncheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sharoncheer@hotmail.co.uk)]*

**Rev'd Reg Kirkpatrick** was first elected to the Council in 1987 and Chairs the Council's Maintenance and Environment Committee.



*Reg has lived in Ditchingham for 28 years having served in the army for 20 years.*

*He was ordained in 2007 in the dioceses of Norwich and has been a Parish Councillor for over 20 years, and was Chair 1991-92. He has also been governor at Ditchingham primary school for roughly the same time. Reg is also a trustee on Ditchingham United Charities; and Chairs the committee for the home run by Genesis housing in the village.*

*[Tel. 01986 893645; email [revregkirk@uwclub.net](mailto:revregkirk@uwclub.net)]*

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**Richard Mulley** was elected to the Council in 2011.



*Born in Norwich in 1945, Richard went to Loddon Secondary Modern in 1960. He joined the army in 1965 and served 12 years in 1st Bn Royal Anglian Regiment in Berlin, B.A.O.R. UK and Northern Ireland, also travelling to Kenya, Cyprus and Libya. Richard married Anne in 1968 and has lived in Ditchingham since 1977.*

*In November 2010 he retired from being a manager at the Otter Trust, his main hobby for the past 15 years has been charity fund raising for various causes, his last event an 88 mile charity bike ride in memory of his daughter.*

*[Tel. 07739 413059; no email]*

**Charlie Taylor** was co-opted to the Council in 2017



*Charles was born in Woodton in 1951 and educated at Loddon Secondary Modern School.*

*He married a local girl in 1975 and moved into their first house in Hempnall, moving up the housing ladder until he moved to Topcroft where they lived for 30 years. He spent about 20 years on Topcroft Parish Council.*

*He moved to Ditchingham in 2014, working at Clay's in the bindery.*

*[Tel. 01986 896718; email [charlietaylor@mac.com](mailto:charlietaylor@mac.com)]*

## Parish Clerk

**Sally Chapman** was appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.



*Sally has always lived locally, born in Diss and grew-up in Fressingfield and she spent most of her summer holidays at her Grandparents at Ditchingham.*

*After a variety of jobs, such as managing a Dutch Flower Bulb company for 15 years she then retrained to work at HMP Blundeston as the Deputy Education Manager/teacher for 10 years until the prison closed in December 2013.*

*Sally is now kept busy as a Parish Clerk and running her own mail order businesses selling collectable china, flower bulbs and plants.*

*[Tel. 07774 734411; email [clerkdpc@aol.co.uk](mailto:clerkdpc@aol.co.uk)]*