

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2021

When I presented my report last year we were at the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, little did we know that the entire Parish Council year would be disrupted by the restrictions imposed by social distancing and lock downs.

Throughout the year our meetings have been held virtually by Zoom and the business of the Parish Council has continued well despite the obvious restrictions and frustrations.

We look forward to the Parish Council Elections which were postponed from last year taking place on 6th May and a resumption of Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall thereafter in accordance with the Government's Road Map for recovery. The next Parish Council will serve for 3 years before a return to the normal 4 yearly schedule.

During to the year Marion Cheesbrough and Shelley Savasi resigned from the Parish Council and we welcomed new Councillors Graham Riley and Jane Cooper who were co-opted pending the next Elections.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Councillors who have served during this difficult year and indeed during the 5 year term of this Council. It would be remiss not to mention 3 previous Chairmen who have stepped down during this time: John Seddon, Beryl Mansbridge and now Alan Davies. These individuals have served the Council magnificently over the years and our thanks go to them. We also thank Rob Caddick and Eve Templeton, both of whom are stepping down, and all other councillors for their service and willingness to stand for election again. I would also thank our Parish Clerk, Jane for all of her support and guidance.

Our meetings have been regularly attended on Zoom by County Councillor Jim Bland and by District Councillor Kevin Holmes and I thank both for their continued help, advice and support. Particular thanks to Kevin who has assisted with grant funding for small local projects.

The review and delivery of the Community Led Action Plan has been slowed during the pandemic but I am hopeful that our work will progress with vigour when we return to normal.

During the pandemic the community has come together to support each other and on behalf of the Parish Council and the community I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and caring. A particular thank you is due to Alan & Elspeth Platts, Wendy Prescott and Marion Cheesbrough for organising the Neighbour Support Scheme ensuring that vulnerable and isolating neighbours had adequate supplies of food and medicines.

So thanks to all for their work during what has been a difficult year and looking forward to better times in 2021.

Steve Carman

22nd March 2021