

CHAIRMANS REPORT – MAY 2021

I would like to welcome everyone to this evenings Annual parish assembly. I felt it important to host this meeting, although it is via the platform zoom, last years annual parish assembly was planned and organised but sadly due to Covid 19 and no legislation to allow pubic meetings via zoom at that time, the assembly could not proceed.

Reflecting on the last year, it has certainly been one that none of us will ever forget, everyone has been impacted in various different ways. I would like to take this opportunity of offering my formal condolences to everyone in the parish who have lost loved ones during this time.

The usual purpose of my report at this event is to discuss all the achievements and share with you plans for the next 12 months.

Last years plans were sadly stopped due to Covid 19. However contractors and staff remained in posts to carry out their duties as best they could under covid restrictions keeping in mind the parish councils obligations to their health and safety also. Many councillors also faced shielding but all raised to the challenge of hosting meetings via the platform zoom. Not ideal, but a challenge that all councillors and residents supported to enable the monthly business to continue and enabling residents to attend to raise local concerns.

This last year the parish have experienced significant anti social behaviour in lots of ways which resulted additional significant expenditure which had not been planned which will have an impact on this years financial status ie play equipment vandalised, leaflet holders, electric meter on the pavilion, guttering, notice boards. The council however still decided to not increase the precept for this next financial year. No local government financial support was given to the parish council during the covid pandemic.

During the year we have seen many unsung heros doing litter picks, telephoning residents offering support, delivering food parcels, delivering prescriptions, planting bulbs which are now flowering to brighten up the parish as we are on the roadmap to getting lives a little bit back to normal.

Groups have also been removing all the weeds grown around the around, to ensure the area remains a nice place to live.

I would also like to thank a local business for disinfecting notice boards and play equipment.

We have continued to have planning applications approved, the more recent being the 128 affordable houses on Aviation Lane which the parish council objected to and attended the planning inspector appeal hearing which sadly resulted in an approval to proceed.

This has resulted in constant discussions regarding environmental matters and highway issues such as parking, pot holes, damaged verges etc, which we will continue to represent on behalf of residents. Unfortunately in all these matters

unless legislation is changed, the parish council are only consultees. However please continue to report matters via the Staffordshire county council hotline too

The parish council honour the importance of VE and VJ last year. These events were marked with ceremonies and with the introduction of a lectern on the junction of Clays Lane.

The parish council has financially supported the local preschool this year with masks and also cupboards which resulted in £2K expenditure. This group did not receive any covid financial support.

The parish council have also supported local residents who wish to engage digitally, collaborating with Staffordshire county council library services by offering craft sessions via the platform zoom.

I am looking forward to getting the pavilion re-opened to offer the free use to local groups. The parish council have agreed to extend the main room and hopefully works will commence this year.

A new basket swing is also going to be installed onto Clays Lane Play area shortly too.