

## **Chairman's Report – May 2021**

The Covid Pandemic has altered our lives in unimaginable ways. Notwithstanding how the Parish Council operates and the events and activities that have been thwarted or paired back during the year, as we grapple with Covid restrictions. The residents in the village have demonstrated such a generosity of spirit, whether it through a friendly voice at the end of a phone, collecting shopping or prescriptions and setting up a stall for the sale of essential provisions. I would particularly like to thank the Hub's isolation support group for their commitment to the elderly and vulnerable of the village.

The parish council unfortunately had to cancel the planned VE day celebrations along with the popular fireworks display, but still managed to light up the Christmas tree and have some socially distanced carols. Between lockdowns we also managed a litter picking evening, which I am delighted to see has been continued by the scouts and other volunteers in the village.

This year we have seen changes within the parish council, with three new councillors being appointed Councillor McCluskey, Councillor Clifford and recently Councillor Saxton. Our Parish Clerk Ann Pyle retired after 39 years' service and on behalf of the parish council, I want to thank her again for all of her dedication and support over the years. We welcomed Emma Wiles as our new parish clerk in August, who I would also like to thank for her commitment and tenacity in getting up to speed with the diversity of parish council matters.

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan, through the NP Steering group led by the Vice Chair, Allan Mortimer. We aim to carry out more consultation with the village later this summer. The parish council thoroughly reviews and comments on all planning applications pertaining to the parish, aiming for cohesive development and to protect the integrity of the village and its surrounds.

During the year we have seen works done to the burial ground, improvements to the river footpaths, new fencing at the sports field and a number of trees planted throughout the village, to name a few of the activities carried out by the council during the year. I would also like to thank care for our village association for their voluntary work including the beautiful planters and work completed outside the Bay Horse

Thanks should be given to both District Councillor Fortune and County Councillor Hugill for their continued dedication to the parish and its residents. A particular highlight this year has been the long-awaited resurfacing of Doctors Lane.

I want to finally thank my fellow Councillors for being available, responsive, and willing to lead on a range of activities to support the parish over the year. It cannot be underestimated the time commitment and dedication this takes.

Best Regards to the residents of the Parish and wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2021 as we ease out of lockdown

Emma Foden

Chair