

Chairman's Report 2020.

I would firstly like to thank our Clerk, Gill Taylor for another year of excellent service in trying circumstances.

My fellow Councillors for their continued help and support in all matters.

I write this report just as the whole of the UK has gone into lock down due to the Corona Virus.

What has emerged very quickly is a community pulling together and several help groups to make life more bearable and assist those who are isolated from family, friends and helpers.

The Parish Council thank you for all the initiatives you have started and our NHS, Carers and all Support workers for keeping the country safe.

Turning to the role of the Parish Council during the last year, We increased our Precept by a small amount because each year more and more surprises come along that cost money to keep the Parish Council compliant with new legislation.

This year the GDPR, General Data Protection Regulation and the need for a Data Protection Officer, we are fortunate to be helped with such matters by NCALC, the Northampton County Association of Local councils, we pay an annual fee for membership and the DPO has to be paid for too.

All Councillors now have a Councillor email address to meet the requirement of not mixing Private emails with Public duty emails.

We would encourage all residents to log onto the Parish website, where local information and Parish meeting minutes are available to read.

Any advice and reports from the Police, NCC, Neighbourhood Watch, CPRE and the Government during the year and the Corona Virus can be found on the website, such reports are placed on

the website quickly.

The defibrillator is maintained to be kept in good working order, this year we have had to purchase a new battery and pads set to keep it in Date. Going forwards we know the Defibrillator will need replacing in 2025 and the Council is putting a little aside each year to pay for it when due.

The council has a lap top for conducting business and this year has had to renew the Microsoft Office 365.

Street lighting, in an attempt to reduce our costs of street lighting, we have been in contact with various suppliers not only for electricity but also changing the out of date sodium and mercury lamps.

In both cases our current supplier Eon has come back as the most efficient on cost and supply.

We considered the option to change from dusk to dawn, to timed lighting, turning the lights off at midnight. However after careful consideration, with our rural location and the ever present threat of rural crime, we decided to remain on dusk to dawn.

During the past year we have funded an addition 4 LED lamp units, 2 in Plowden Close and 2 in Main street, these are considerably cheaper to run, we have 9 LED's in total currently.

We were asked to consider the placement of a car charging point being placed in the village, for the moment it was felt the need not required but will keep an open mind for the future.

There is a yellow grit bin type box with equipment for any emergencies, during the year the box was moved from behind the village hall to the front side. An inventory of the contents was carried out, unfortunately most of it was out of date and unusable. We have retained the empty sand bags and waterproof gloves. A decision was taken not to replace the items as most emergencies are now responded to very quickly. We also have an Emergency Planner with the equipment available from the

Community. The box is also used to store some old Park tools.

A new sign to replace the wind damaged previous one detailing the local footpaths has been placed on the School wire fence with the consent of the School Head.

Various drains have been cleared and all street kerbs are swept once a quarter. If you find anything needs to be done, it can be reported to Fix my Street, run by the County Council, the response times do vary though.

Two further items have be reported to Fix, the first the condition and safety of the Willow tree on Welsh Road, the County Council have determined it is not unsafe currently and were investigating who owned the tree.

The second report was the slippery surface of the footpath alongside the Millennium Garden, again it was felt nothing apart from a good sweeping was required by the County Council. The Parish Council would urge users of the path to be careful.

The Vehicle Activated sign is deployed during the year at different location to encourage all drivers to slow down, the data collected is shared with the Police and County Council.

We have had another winter with no snow and little ice so our grit bins are still nearly full, a nice cost saving.

Part of the preparation for HS2 was the Wormleighton Heave trial, this is a massive excavation to see how the ground behaves during the 4 seasons. Large transporters came through the village during May delivering the heavy plant equipment.

Following the collapse of the contractor on the X roads and the Chipping Warden by pass, the works were in limbo until a new contractor was engaged by Fusion. Buckingham have been working on the two project since November 2019 and as I write this, they are unlikely to complete the works until July / August 2020.

Going forwards we will continue to monitor the activities of HS2 and all their contractors.

Thank you.