

Chairman's Report, May 2020

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting being held courtesy of Zoom – thank you for joining us.

Unfortunately, during the past year, Councillor Glenn Hyde has resigned and moved away from the parish. We are, therefore, still one short of a full complement of councillors. We would love to hear from anyone wishing to play a part in our community and join the council. Full training is given and the duties not too onerous! The reward is being able to help the parish have a say in its continuing development.

The Covid outbreak has affected all of us one way or another although communicating by e-mail and meeting through Zoom has enabled the parish council to continue to function, I hope, normally even though I feel such meetings to be, possibly, not quite as effective as face to face. By governments direction our ability to meet via Zoom will end after this evenings parish council meeting which follows directly after this annual meeting.

Covid did provide us with evidence that our Emergency Plan is effective, with some of the volunteers listed therein kept busy collecting shopping and medications for those unable to leave their homes during the early stages of the outbreak. We should take steps to revise the emergency plan when normal meetings resume.

Council was fortunate enough to organise two clean-up days last summer and it is hoped to continue with those during the summer months. The first of those is currently scheduled to take place on the 26th June. It is important that we continue as it enables us to do little things that would otherwise be overlooked and lead to a gradual deterioration of our environs.

Other Council business has continued as normal whenever possible, continuing improvement at Coronation Green is high on our agenda as this area is well used not only in the summer by both locals and visitors but also by birdwatchers throughout the season. We are currently in the middle of improving the non-slip surface of the viewing platform and have replaced or refurbished the picnic benches.

Planning is also high on our agenda and there have been several applications which could have a considerable impact on our community. In cases like this it is always helpful and much appreciated when we get feedback from the community as this can be very helpful in our deliberations. Opinions are passed to EDDC Planning who has the final say on such matters.

Council also supports several local organisations by way of monetary grants. It is important that applications for such grants are submitted on the correct application form and a separate application made on each occasion such grants are required.

Parish footpaths are walked by councillors on a regular basis and shortcomings made good wherever possible. As well as this, council arrange for the banks of the main footpath bordering the road to Seaton to be trimmed regularly to keep this as wide and safe as possible.

The vehicle traffic on this road is constantly under scrutiny and council continue to endeavour to effect measures to enhance the safety and pleasure of those who walk our parish.

As you know, it had been my intention to step down from council this time last year. However, the covid emergency caused me to reconsider. Due to lockdown and social distancing, our activities over the past twelve months have been much restricted. This includes seeking personnel to boost the

parish council numbers (we still have one vacancy) ensuring its viability. I am, therefor, willing to remain serving on council for one more, final, year.

As ever, as a council, we thank County Councillor Ian Hall and District Councillor Ian Thomas for their input and support throughout this difficult period. We wish Ian Hall well in today's County Elections.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their efforts over the last year and, in particular, our clerk, Becki Davey, for her patient guidance.

Ken Steven