

Chairman's Report 2019-20

This report covers the period from May 2019 to November 2020. This extension is due to the deferral of the AGM consequent on Covid 19.

The broadband project saw major delays from Openreach, taking two years for all 92 properties to have the fibre cable connection available. At the time of writing 6 vouchers remain to be validated and we have had many reports of an excellent broadband improvement from those who are now on fibre. A compensation case is being pursued for the delay with the intent to give any compensation to charity.

We have dealt with 16 planning items in the past year. The majority were supported by the Parish Council. A few were opposed, with mixed success. One of these went to appeal where the PC's position was upheld. A PC supported request to list a Barn in Flyford Flavell was upheld by Heritage England but refused by the secretary of state. A flue and filter system were implemented at Auntea Rita's to reduce odour nuisance to local residents.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan has continued to progress with Wychavon and partners. No further development has been identified so far for our Parishes. A PC investigation is underway into the implications of creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

We have supported the Three Parishes Hall with their planned extension. The building work is currently in progress. We also supported a £1300 grant for general improvements funded by the remaining New Homes Bonus via Wychavon.

We held a public consultation event in June. This covered potential village green enhancements that had been identified by the village green working group, Neighbourhood Watch, Smartwater, and how

we might further improve communication to the local community. The results were majority support for installing the proposed play equipment and landscaping on the village green. There was also strong support for a Neighbourhood watch scheme and Smartwater. Most people were satisfied with communication from the Parish Council though some improvement opportunities were identified. The PC resolved to spend up to £40,000 to implement Play equipment, a planting scheme, a water supply and provide a generator. The majority of the funding is intended to come from grants. So far we have a grant of £10,000 from the Community Lottery fund, £1500 allocated from the Grafton Society, over £1500 from fundraising events and 3 further grant applications at an advanced stage.

Four more benches, a litter bin and a water supply have been installed on the Village Green. The original bench has also been moved and reinstalled to be a little higher. A first stage planting scheme including a community garden has been agreed and is currently out for final quotes. The quotes have been delayed due to Covid 19. The play equipment is intended to be implemented in 2021 when we have received further grant funding.

A sign for Flyford has been agreed based on all the input received from parishioners and artwork from the children of Flyford First School. The order has been placed and installation is expected in the next 6 months.

A Neighbourhood watch scheme has been implemented in Flyford Flavell. This followed investigation by the PC and volunteers from the PC consultation. The Police reported a reduction in crime for the 12 months to May 2020, with theft and burglaries falling from 22 to 14 incidences.

We have continued the Lengthsman scheme, and also held several litter picks.

The PC developed and adopted a Parish Council Strategy to steer the PC on future initiatives and decision making. This includes the topics of The Environment; Transport and Highways; Planning and Housing; The Churches; Shopping, Services and Public Utilities; Communication and Local Government; Education Employment and Training; Sport Recreation and Leisure; Health and Emergency Services; and Parish council Effectiveness.

Meetings have been held with the Police and County Council Highways regarding speeding and road safety in Flyford Flavell and on the A422. Four sets of 30MPH roundels were agreed and implemented on the roads through Flyford Flavell. The cost was shared between the PC and Rob Adams county fund. A petition was raised regarding safety, speeding, and the noise nuisance from motorbikes on the A422. Over 120 signatures were achieved and the petition was presented to Nigel Huddleston our local MP and sent to the local authorities. The PC has recently been consulted on inputs to safety improvements. The PC is also developing a Transport and Highways plan.

We updated our code of conduct to incorporate the latest government recommendations.

Flooding concerns along the Bishampton road were raised to Wychavon for resolution by their drainage task force. The task force action has been delayed due to Covid 19.

The annual parish meeting was not held this year due to Covid 19 restrictions.

The Village Green maintenance fund was strategically reviewed. The fund was found to be performing well, and dividend payments have continued positively despite the negative financial effects of Covid.

The precept was reviewed and agreed to be increased by 4.0%. The precept is still well below the national average for small parish councils, and the increase is below the average increase of 4.9%.

Gayle Rowe resigned as footpath officer after a number of years of good support. I am very pleased to welcome Andrew Short as her successor.

Simon Kennedy recently resigned as a councillor due to an impending move, and I would like to record my personal thanks for his excellent support, not least on the consultation this year. I am very pleased to welcome Ceri Bennett who has recently joined the PC.

I would like to conclude by thanking all our councillors for their valuable contributions and input, and Rob Adams and Linda Robinson for their continued strong support at County and Wychavon. Particular thanks are due to Richard Davey, for excellent support including chairing several meetings and our Clerk, Mark for his continued excellent service, including regular councillor briefings during Covid.

David Waide

16th November 2020