

Annual Parish Meeting

9th May 2022

Chairman's Report 2021-2022

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their work and continuing support. We have managed to continue working despite Covid issues. Councillors Ellison, Lugsden, Richardson and Chubb resigned from the Council and we thank them for their contribution.

We were very pleased to recruit four new councillors. Richard Ball, Sue Capella, Howard Jones and Jo O'Donohoe. Unfortunately Councillor O'Donohoe had to resign from the Council due to family commitments.

This means we still have two vacancies for Parish Councillors.

I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk, Heidi Head, for the work she does in supporting the Parish Council and the village.

We have worked closely with our Ward Councillor for Central Bedfordshire, Philip Spicer, who has been of great assistance in bringing matters to the attention of CBC and helping to get things done.

We continue to deal with routine issues such as commenting on planning applications. We made representations at the CBC Management Committee Meeting when the proposed Eaton Park development was discussed.

Covid Issues have inevitably curtailed some of our activities but things are gradually returning to normal.

Speedwatch is about to restart and there has been a good response to the call for additional volunteers..

A Village Litter Pick took place in March. Only 10 volunteers took part but nevertheless removed a considerable amount of rubbish from the verges and roads around the village.

We have supplied the school with Litter Picking equipment and hope that they will soon be able to use this and to highlight the need to keep our village clean.

Fly tipping continues to be an issue around the village. We have spoken to the agencies involved who are actively trying to deal with the problems that this causes and trying to catch those involved.

The Bloomers have continued to plant the containers around the village and the daffodils were a lovely sight in the Spring so thanks to them all.

Trees continue to be a major part of the Parish Council work. Extensive work has been done to trees in St Mary's Churchyard. We have also removed the overgrown Leylandii trees close to the Village Hall which has opened up that corner of the Churchyard and allowed the view of the surrounding countryside to be seen. The Church authorities will replace the trees with a native hedge.

Various issues with the water course at Mill End Close have been resolved and fencing has been reinstated where needed.

We are continuing to enhance village facilities. A recreational gym rig was installed in The Rye recreation ground. A new path has been constructed alongside the Skate park and two new benches have been put in place. Two metal picnic benches have also been installed. Unfortunately these were vandalised very shortly after installation. Two new benches have also been provided at Mill End Close.

We made a major investment in the play park in School Lane park including a Zip wire. Unfortunately due to contractor delays the ground was impacted by the machinery working in very wet conditions. We shall take steps to rectify this when the weather improves.

Our hopes to set up a Youth Council failed for a variety of reasons. We will continue to be aware of the needs of the Youth in the village and will ensure that this is taken into account in our decision making.

Financially the PC accounts continue to be in a healthy position and we have again kept the precept at the same level as the previous year.

During the next financial year we hope to further improve the play equipment in School Lane playground and to install additional lighting. We also have plans to improve the play facilities in The Rye recreation ground and to resurface the carpark.

Marie Brewer
9th May 2022