

Chairs address 2022

Miss C Holmes

I would like to begin with saying thank you to everyone who has given their time to this Parish Council over the past year. Without your contribution this Parish Council could not operate. This year we have been allowed to meet for a full year of meetings. Every councillor around this table gives their time once a month voluntarily for the benefit of the community and that is very much appreciated. But that which people see and experience happens outside this room and things only happen because people give their time to make those things happen. That includes councillors, staff and residents who volunteer their time. This year as we have begun to restart events post covid we have been assisted by residents who helped with the Christmas light switch on and who have attended meetings to plan the jubilee. We have gained a member of staff and one has retired. We wish Keith well in his retirement and recognise his significant achievement of such long service. We are pleased to welcome Sally to the Team and continue to appreciate the efforts of Diane who is indispensable.

The cost of living is extremely high at the moment. It is because of everyone's willingness to give their time voluntarily to do things over and above attending meetings and because of good fiscal planning that we have been able to achieve all that we have and that we have done so without any increase to the precept, yet again.

People have their own reasons for volunteering but mainly they care about their parish environment and they want to give back to their community.

We laid a wreath for Remembrance Day and remembered those who gave their lives so we could have our freedom.

We have helped our community groups and they have in turn helped us. We have now completed a rewilding project in Patrington Haven in partnership with Patrington Scout Group. This arose out of a resident who came to see us to talk about conservation. We hope this demonstrates how we take on board suggestions where we can. It is always welcome when residents correspond with us or come to see us. We have been proactive with our ideas such as the telephone box library and the mural and playground markings added at the park. This arose out of our Clerk seeing that children had drawn in chalk on the playground during lockdown. We recognised that this showed the children wanted a more vibrant space. We are pleased to see how they choose to use this space and that it is well used.

We have continued to maintain our grassed areas and the hanging baskets were hung and taken down. Flags were put up and taken down for the Olympics and England matches. We were asked to remove the planters and we did so. Through the gardening skills of Cllr Edmonds, we were able to take many cuttings of the flowers so they can be put in many other places and the plants have not gone to waste.

I am sure that many people including children will remember the Christmas light switch on as being magical. Thank you to everyone who helped and especially our clerk whose skills and experience were invaluable. To produce such an event in the face of such uncertainty is a feat indeed.

The scarecrow trail was a great success and it was lovely to see the busy village. The church also opened showing how Parish Council events support high street business and all parts of the community. We will continue to do so over the next 12 months.