

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

2020 has been a year utterly unlike any other, with all aspects of life changed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Physical meetings of all the village organisations have either taken place on line or been suspended. Fowlmere has reacted magnificently to this challenge: as a result of a parishioner's initiative, over 120 people volunteered to give whatever help was needed. And this was arranged in very few days indeed, with an organisation set up with the village divided into patches, each covered by a team of volunteers. I cannot thank them enough on behalf of the whole village.

Much of the 2019-20 year took place before the outbreak of the virus. The Parish Council held 11 Council meetings, 10 Planning meetings, 4 Finance meeting and 1 Burial Board meeting. Tony Bearpark stepped down as a Councillor, and I would like to thank him here for many years of valuable service to the Council, not least as Tree Officer and Vice Chairman of Planning. Cllr James Hobro joined the Council and we are delighted to have his contribution.

The normal Parish Council activities continued. In terms of road safety, the Speedwatch team led by Cllr Howe continued to be active. The village was surveyed about traffic calming proposals, and 213 households responded, with 82% being in favour. The proposal was approved by the Local Highway Improvement panel, and installation is expected in the summer of 2020.

Further work to fell dangerous trees, and prune others, was brought forward in the interests of safety. A complete tree survey was commissioned for the spring of 2020.

There was further very useful liaison with the Thriplow Daffodil Weekend organisers to improve traffic management, although sadly the weekend itself had to be cancelled.

The repair and restoration of the windows in the cemetery chapel was completed, and the boundary between the old cemetery and the new extension was opened up.

The Pipers Close bus shelter was repaired, and plans to replace the central bus shelter at the junction of London Road and the High Street were considered.

The patch of ground near the school, which is owned by the County Council, had asbestos waste cleared away. The future use of the area remains to be decided.

Three Councillors attended training courses, and the Clerk attended five training courses.

I am sorry to say that Cllr Mike Sunderland moved away from the village and left the Parish Council in June. We shall miss him, and thank him for his valuable contribution to the Council. We are delighted to welcome Cllr Ros Lennon in his place.

We were very sorry to say farewell to Dave Salmons, who has moved away from the area, but we are delighted to have had help from Ian Wilson in his place.

We are fortunate that our County and District Councillors attend our meetings. During the year, Peter Topping stood down as County Councillor, and we welcome Peter McDonald, who took his place. We thank both of them for their contribution.

There are other people we would like to thank:  
Our District Councillor, Cllr Deborah Roberts;  
Our Parish Councillors; and  
Our Parish Clerk, Kerry Byrne.

Lawrence Wragg  
8 June 2020