

Stawley Parish Council: Annual Parish Meeting, 3rd June 2021

Chairman's Report

This is a summary of what the Parish Council has been up to over the past two years as the Annual Parish Meeting for 2020 was cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

The Effects of Covid

At the outset of the pandemic it was decided that the focus of any local support that would be required by parishioners would be The Shop. There was some delivery of food and the Shop did experience an increase in sales as parishioners shopped more locally. The Council continued to meet during the period using Zoom and was joined on some occasions by parishioners.

Membership & Responsibilities

The Council has remained the same throughout the period:

Paul Musgrove –Chairman, Clerk and Website

Simon Buttars – Roads

Pat Sweet – Responsible Financial Officer

Clive Wall – Planning

Matt Vellacott – Footpaths & bridleways

Finance

The Parish Precept in 2019/20 was increased slightly from previous years to £2,820 as it was then likely that we would have to procure our own salt for local roads. The Parish Precept was increased to £2,875 in 2020/21 to maintain the cost per household at the same level as the previous year.

Planning

The Parish Council has an advisory role in the planning process – we do not determine planning applications ourselves. We are consulted by the planning authorities – mainly Somerst West and Taunton but for some applications it is Somerset County – and we give our views. Sometimes our views are listened to.

Highways & footpaths/bridleways

We liaise regularly with County highways over problems & maintenance of the roads in the Parish. While we can't dictate when repair work is undertaken we do regularly review and chase the County Council about unresolved highway problems. Progress has been made during the year specifically at the entrance to Appley Orchard Farm where the drainage has been re-laid to get rid of the perennial puddles that previously existed.

Refurbishment of finger signs will continue and a provision for this work has been placed in the budget for 2021/22.

Website

The www.stash.org.uk website covering both Stawley & Ashbrittle continues to be updated with news of Stawley Council Meetings, the Parish News and other local interest stories such as the Somerset County Council daily update on Covid.

Paul Musgrove

June 2021