

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 16th MAY 2022

The Chairman welcomes any members of the public who may be attending and advise that immediately following the Chairman's Annual Statement, members of the public may raise any queries or comments either in relation the Annual Statement or any other matter.

Annual Statement

This last year has sped by, packed full of Council activities.

Health

The gradual lifting of Covid restrictions have allowed the council to meet normally for all its meetings. This has been a welcome development back to some form of normality.

Our local charity for socially vulnerable and older residents in the community has been very busy throughout the year- ADCA (Audlem and District Community Action) Your chairman has been active ferrying members to the Lunch Clubs and medical appointments. The Council organised a Defibrillator to be installed at the entrance to the Tin Shed part way down Park Lane. There were grateful donations by many residents and Crewe and Nantwich Round Table. We are awaiting its installation.

Local health initiatives continue to be advertised via our noticeboards.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Wybunbury Parishes Neighbourhood Plan, continues to be effective in reflecting the needs of the parish and the Chairman annually monitors its relevance. Formal reviews of the plan are needed every 5 years, and a revised Housing Needs assessment will be completed this year.

Planning

Another busy year on the planning front, and we amended our standing orders for the planning committee to take more of an active role when we have multiple applications. This allows the council meetings to be shorter and more focused.

Cheshire East Council have made their pronouncements regarding our Parish Council boundary and functions review and we have opted to keep our boundaries unchanged and remain at 10 councillors. That has been accepted.

Highways

The state of our roads and pavements continue to alarm us. Surface patching never seems to last and the verges along the main roads and minor roads continue to decay. With the significant increase in cyclists using our roads the degradation is particularly dangerous. The Chairman and other councillors regularly write and contact Cheshire East Highways to fix these problems. There have been two road closures of Birchall Moss Lane caused by incessant HGVs collapsing a culvert and breaking the adjacent water main. Other HGVs mistakenly turn at the junction of Bridgemere Lane and have caused a catalogue of property and pavement damage. Cheshire East Highways have been asked by the Chairman to find a solution. We have an active Hatherton Roads

website where anyone can report a Highways issue and we will follow it up with the appropriate authority. Your Parish Council continue to push for other improvements. The Chairman was responsible for resolving the 40mph speed limit formalisation along London Road and we indebted to Cllr Dibben for making further signage improvements.

HS2 (High Speed 2)

Surveying and Early Works have started and your Chairman successfully lobbied this year to get traffic lights planned for the Boars Had Cross Roads. Your chairman and the ward councillor have represented the parish at local and national HS2 meetings in efforts to lessen the impact of HS2 construction on the parish.

Finance

The accounts and internal controls of the Parish Council have been examined by the Auditors and found to be satisfactory.

Your Parish Council has this year given donations to

- Audlem Community Responders, a service which provides urgent medical response in the area.
- ADCA Audlem and District Community Action.
- NW Air Ambulance

Local Policing

We have established regular Police liaison and our Local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Nick Jarvis has regularly attended our council meetings.

Awards and Communication

After a lot of late nights by the Chairman and much Council deliberation, this year we were proudly awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Award, that means a lot to us. We were told in October and with some Pomp and Circumstance our local hero Jackie Weaver presented us the Award at our November meeting which now hangs proudly at our meeting place.

We also continue with our growing residents email list, controlled with full GDPR protection administered by our clerk.

Thanks are given to our Webmaster Cllr Dibben. Also thanks are given to Parish Clerk, Selina Clarke and Ward Councillor Clowes for their contributions for the parish council facebook page.

Improvements

We have had an advisory committee, made up of councillors and residents to address possible improvements we can make in our parish.

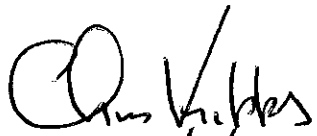
This last year we have installed the new Walgherton Noticeboard, fixed the Walgherton Village Sign, installed a litter bin at Oakes Corner. Further installations are imminent.

We would welcome more residents and their ideas to participate in our improvements group.

Your Chairman organised the annual parish litterpick noting a substantial amount of rubbish adorning our main road hedgerows and verges. A subsequent suggestion for a further rubbish bin has been made.

The Parish Council

The Annual General meeting gives me the opportunity to publicly thank all the Parish Council members for volunteering their time and contributions during the last twelve months, in particular those members who have attended meetings across Cheshire and farther afield to represent the parish. We welcomed a new Councillor Joy Sansom, whilst saying goodbye to Steve Boyes. We also are sorry to say goodbye to Selina Clarke after nearly 2 years as Clerk and RFO and we wish her all the best for the future. We look forward to working with our new Clerk and RFO Sue Davies who I'm sure will keep us in good order.


16/5/2022