HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISHES
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 18th MAY 2020

The Chairman will welcome 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

The Parish Year just ended was another very busy year for the Parish Council in unusual circumstances.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Wybunbury Parishes Neigbourhood Plan, 4 years in the making, is now complete and reflects residents' views on how our rural area will develop over the next 10 years. Your Chairman and Cllr Boyes were largely responsible for its countryside, planning and business policies.
Reviews of the plan will be needed every 5 years.

Planning

Another busy year on the planning front, including a week long Planning appeal regarding the Doddington Estate. The outcome is expected in the Autumn. The high number of other planning applications reflects the vibrancy of our community; it keeps the Parish Council busy as we make recommendations to Cheshire East Council. Cheshire East Council is undertaking a Parish Council boundary and functions review and we have opted to keep our boundaries unchanged.

Highways

Its good to report that Hatherton Bends road improvements seemed to have reduced the frequency of accidents at this blackspot. However, one of the Vehicle Activated "Slow Down" signs is currently not working. We have an active Hatherton Roads website where anyone can report a Highways issue and we will follow it up with the appropriate authority. The 2019 winter saw unprecedented periods of flooded roads and footpaths. Long term works along Park Lane have, hopefully, resolved that particular problem. The Parish Council will continue to push for improvements. We are requesting weight restrictions on Park Lane and actions to reduce the badly damaged verges on Bridgemere Lane.

HS2

It is going ahead, with construction traffic using the A51 and Wybunbury Road, Walgherton. 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. Over recent years the Council has reported its

intention to build up a modest reserve and in this it has been successful. The Council's Balance sheet and Receipts and Payments report are available for inspection upon request.

Your Parish Council has this year given donations to

- Audlem Community Responders, a service which provides urgent medical response in the area.
- Wybunbury Parochial Church Council, in support of the upkeep of the graveyard.

Health

Covid 19 has had a big impact on our local community, and your Chairman and councillors have posted leaflets to all residents signposting ADCA for any residents needing help with shopping or medical supplies. It is heart-warming to see the community neighbourliness that has flourished in our parishes- long may it continue. Never seen so many residents walking and cycling on our country lanes.

Local health initiatives continue to be advertised via our noticeboards. Regarding the support for older people in the community, local charity ADCA are doing a sterling job, with many new volunteers coming forward. Thanks are due to them. Hopefully when things get back to normal, ADCA's Wednesday lunch club at Hankelow Community Hall will restart. This attracts residents from our parish for lunch and to enjoy chats and activities.

Communications

The Parish Council has two websites, one which provides information about Parish matters and the other is a reporting and update mechanism for local road problems. Thanks are given to the two Webmasters Cllr Tindall and Cllr Dibben. Also thanks are given to Parish Clerk, Carol Bell, for recently setting up the parish council facebook page.

The Parish Council

The Annual General meeting gives me the opportunity to publicly thank all the Parish Council members for their time and contributions during the last twelve months, in particular those members who have attended meetings across Cheshire to represent the parish. We welcomed a new Councillor Melanie Yeomans who adds youth and experience to our team. We thank Carol Bell our clerk for her short spell in organising our Parish Council and wish her all the best for the future.

Litter Picking Event

We missed out on this year's event due to Covid 19 but individual councillors and residents keep large areas of our byways litter free throughout the year. We still have the litter picking equipment ready for next year's pick.

Local Policing and Homewatch

Our Clerk currently circulates local policing and Homewatch alerts as they arise to those residents in email contact.