

Cllr. Thornton began by acknowledging that the nine serving Parish Councillors had put themselves forward for election at this year's Parish Council election. As there were no other candidates, the election is uncontested and so the nine Parish Councillors have duly been re-elected.

Cllr. Thornton explained that the Parish Council meets monthly, in public and these meetings include a public session when residents can express views or ask questions. The Parish Council is organised with 3 committees, Finance, Recreation and Planning. Only the Full Council can authorise actions or expenditure. The Planning Committee has delegated powers to respond to applications because of the time constraints in responding to them.

Cllr. Thornton referred to three projects completed in the last year. The Parish Council was pleased to install a Commemorative seat and it has been welcomed by residents. The Community Orchard in Reading Road was finally planted last November after long negotiations with Hampshire County Council as it is on Highways land. The trees are all alive, well and currently in blossom. The Parish Council was pleased with the expert support from Hortus Loci who supplied the trees and planted them. The Parish Lengthsman has repaired seating and re-varnished the wooden seats around the Parish.

Cllr. Thornton referred to two on-going projects. The proposed Hanmore Road play area (beside Busy Bees) has been held up by legal issues but these have now been resolved. The site work has started and the project will progress this summer. The Tollhouse Meadow replacement bridge has been agreed with the Borough Council and will be installed during the summer months when ground conditions are suitable.

Cllr. Thornton referred to two proposed projects. The Parish Council is working on ideas to enhance the area inside the moat by Farm View Drive to provide a secluded site for quiet contemplation ("Moat Park"). The Parish Council has met with Borough Council Officers to discuss feasible ideas and will consult residents before making any decisions. The Parish Council is considering installing more seats along the Petty's Brook "corridor" to enable all, including our less mobile residents, to enjoy this key green feature of Chineham.

Cllr. Thornton gave his thanks to Cllr. Sue Fuller and the Recreation Committee for all their hard work on these projects.

Cllr. Thornton gave those present a brief resume of some queries from local residents that have been passed on to the relevant authorities. These include: grass-cutting (BDBC/Grounds Maintenance), overgrown vegetation (BDBC/Grounds Maintenance), fly-tipping (BDBC/Street Cleaning), fallen Leaves (BDBC/Street Cleaning), pot holes/resurfacing works (Hampshire Highways), the drain at Guinea Court shops (BDBC/Environmental Health), Sewage Treatment Works (Thames Water), concerns over roundabout safety (Borough/County Councillors), Reading Road residents/volume & speed of traffic during works (Borough/County Councillors), Kings Pightle safety issue on pathway (Hampshire Highways assessed path & put in guard rail).

Cllr. Thornton advised those present of some of the Consultations that the Parish Council has replied to from the Borough Council and other authorities. The Parish Council always responds to consultations and the responses can be found in the Parish Council minutes and often in the reports of the consulting bodies. These include: Hampshire County Council – Permit scheme for Road & Street works, Hampshire County Council – street lighting, supported passenger transport services & concessionary travel scheme, Government - 2019/20 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical consultation, National Highways & Transport Public Satisfaction survey, Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Council Ward Boundaries for Basingstoke & Deane, North Wessex Downs AONB updated management plan, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 – 2022/23, Hampshire County Council – Rights of Way priority cutting list, Hampshire County Council/Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – draft Transport Strategy.

Cllr. Thornton informed those present that the big planning event has been the proposed redevelopment of the Chineham shopping centre. Parish Councillors attended pre-application meetings and considered the application at the December meeting. The Parish Council's response was in favour except for the road layout, location of bus stops and pedestrian access to transport. The Parish Council is awaiting a revised application. The Parish Council has commented on proposed developments adjacent to the Parish, the Aurum site, Razor's Farm and Upper Cufaude Farm. The Parish Council's concerns are the effects on Chineham's already overburdened infrastructure. The Parish Council is paying close attention to the awaited developments on the other side of the A33. The Planning Committee considered 53 applications in 2018 and objected to two (a chart was shown to the meeting Appendix A).

Cllr. Thornton advised that Parish Councillors had attended last year's Four Lanes School Fete and planned to attend again this year. The Parish Council introduced revised policies in line with the new GDPR requirements. The Parish Council undertook a number of traffic surveys at Thornhill Way, Mattock Way, Hanmore Road, Reading Road and Bowman Road. A second Tree Warden has been appointed for Chineham. The Parish Council gave a grant to Victim Support during the year.

Cllr. Thornton acknowledged that the Parish Council's activities would have been impossible without the work of the Clerks who give excellent support and advice. He further acknowledged that the Parish Council is fortunate that both Clerks are experienced and qualified. Cllr. Thornton also thanked the Rapid Response Warden, the "eyes and ears" of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Thornton concluded his presentation by thanking all of the Councillors and staff for their hard work.