

Chairman's Report for 2020/21

Cllr. Thornton began by acknowledging that the past year has been challenging as the Parish Council has been, like all our society, making big changes because of the COVID pandemic and March 2020 saw the Parish Council's last 'in person' meeting prior to the national lockdown being introduced on 23 March. Our April 2020 meeting was cancelled whilst the necessary legislation was put in place to allow local authorities to meet & conduct their business remotely. The Parish Council also took this opportunity to explore the various methods available to conduct meetings remotely, settling on Zoom & establishing some protocols. We were fortunate that our Clerks arranged this very efficiently and made the transition to virtual meetings less difficult than was expected. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) was not convened in 2020 and neither did the Parish Council facilitate the Annual Parish Assembly (APA) in line with the recommendations at the time. May 2020 saw the Parish Council's first monthly meeting conducted remotely via Zoom. The internal audit was undertaken remotely. It was fortunate that the allotment site on Hanmore Road was able to remain open in line with the guidance allowing for permitted daily exercise.

Several grant applications were considered during the year and five grants were awarded by the parish council: Victim Support, Home-Start North West Hampshire, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Spotlight UK & Sherfield Park Community Centre.

The parish council gave its views in response to a variety of official consultations: HCC Library Service Consultation, Local Government Association Consultation on the Model Member Code of Conduct, BDBC Consultation on their Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy, BDBC budget proposals for 2021/22 and HCC Consultation on the development of the Hampshire Local Transport Plan.

Items of note: a new Parish Council website went live in line with the new accessibility guidelines, the Parish Council assisted BDBC with the allocation of S.106 funds for the four community buildings identified in the Parish, the Parish Council undertook a Post Office survey with the analysis being circulated to the PO, Tellow etc.

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council was successful in its bid for the Local Infrastructure Funding (LIF) of £49,500 to replace the two bridges over the ancient moat (this work is to be undertaken by the BDBC grounds maintenance team) to create a more accessible space. A new lectern style notice board was installed at the Community Orchard which finished off the project. The Parish Council liaised with BDBC over the installation of a new play area on the corner of Hanmore Road by the Nursery, the project to install new seating along the Petty's Brook "corridor" remains on hold.

The Parish Council Planning Committee managed three face to face meetings before the March 2020 lockdown, agreed feedback about planning applications by email during April and started Zoom meetings on 11th May. We held 12 Zoom Planning Committee meetings during 2020 and have continued them into 2021. We have definitely had more applicants and neighbours joining our meetings while they have been held by Zoom. The Planning Committee looked at 51 planning applications in 2020, compared to 58 in 2019. The attached pie charts show more detail (Appendix A). Of the 51 planning applications, 19 were for TPO trees. In addition to the 51 planning applications, there were also 10 permitted development applications within Chineham Parish which the Planning Committee are not invited to provide feedback about. In addition to the 'standard' house extension and TPO applications, the Planning Committee considered and provided feedback on the ongoing proposals for the

Chineham Centre, and in particular the proposed locations for the bus stops and taxis. The Committee also provided feedback about the proposed Redlands site and the two reserved matters planning applications which were submitted during 2020. The Chairman also joined the Borough Council's Zoom Development Control meeting to outline the Parish Council's objections to the proposal for a temporary access to the site off the A33. We also provided comments directly to the Planning Inspector when the Borough Council's refusal decision was appealed. The Planning Inspector upheld BDBC's refusal. We raised a number of queries with BDBC about possible planning breaches and at least one is the ongoing subject of an enforcement case by BDBC.

We considered and provided feedback on the following consultations:

- 'Changes to the current planning system'
- 'Planning for the future - planning white paper'
- Transparency & competition: a call for evidence on data on land control (the Planning Committee agreed that this one was too complex and not appropriate for a PC to be responding to).
- BDBC Local Plan update - Issues and Options. This review spanned several Planning Committee meetings before a final response was agreed.

There have been some changes to Parish Council people this year: Cllr Steve Oakley resigned in June and we welcomed Cllr Luke Williams who was co-opted at the November meeting. Alison Shelton resigned as the RRW in July & we welcomed Phil Walker as her replacement in October. The Parish Council now finds itself preparing for the possible return to in person meetings from May 7th. We have a plan for this as the Clerks have worked out how we can meet in the Parish rooms and still be within the COVID guidelines.

As usual at this meeting I would like to thank the people who have made it all possible; Councillors who freely give their time for meetings and studying all the various documents and, of course, our staff. A special thanks to Sally Jackson and Julia Johnston, our Clerks, who have coped with this difficult year with their usual good humour and brisk efficiency.