

Chairman's Report 2022

At the end of my last report in 2019 I suggested we should brace ourselves for the next 12 months. None of us, including the government departments whose job it was to plan for such things were prepared for the events that have unfolded over the past 2.5 years.

Two years ago, we were over a month into the first lockdown and locally, parishioners had rallied around to offer help and support to anyone who needed it, a service which to an extent has continued. There has been a tremendous community spirit for which we are all extremely grateful. In addition, the PC had to hold all meetings via Zoom, which, given the continued parlous state of broadband in the parish was not an easy task.

For the main part I could simply reel off the same report as before as all the old chestnuts continue to plague us.

Parking continues to be a major issue and the PC have conducted a survey and formed a committee which is in the process of discussing options to alleviate the situation. Highways were looking into providing double yellow lines in 2019 but that seems to have fallen off their 'to do' list. Covid has so much to answer for.

There have been a few improvements to some roads (apparently) however any potholes that are filled, quickly reappear and some drains and buddle holes have not been cleared for 6 years.

The removal of rubbish from mainly Outer Hope during the season has been a disaster and is not helped by illegal parking and obstacles around the square.

We still await answers from SHDC about the Fisherman's Carpark which has been used as an overflow eating area for the past two summers.

Coastal erosion in front of the Old Colonial House is putting the future of the main sewer from Inner to Outer Hope at risk but SWW don't seem to think it's their problem!

Planning continues to dominate our meetings, with, in the last three years respectively 32, 35 and 40 applications. Several have been contentious; some have gone to the DM committee and a large number of 'developments' have been referred to enforcement.

On a positive note, the Neighbourhood Plan became reality in May last year when 86.5% of a whopping 53.5% turnout of parishioners voted in favour. Thank you all but especially Tom and Joe without whose help it wouldn't be possible. From then on, all planning applications are subject to the policies of the NP which is used to inform decisions. Perhaps now the planning department at SHDC will have to take more notice of us?

Local artist, Janet Clarke, designed signs for Hope Cove which have been erected at Mouthwell beach, Harbour beach and Inner Hope slipway. They are very informative and a great help to visitors. Our thanks go to Janet.

A sub-committee of Malborough and SH parish councils, SMASH CEB, has been created to counter climate change, help the environment and improve biodiversity. In under 2 years it

has held several beach cleans, organised a competition for the primary school children resulting in the amazing 'Beach Feet' signs that are now placed around Hope Cove (well done to the children), planted scores of trees in the 2 parishes and last month organised a very successful Energy Fair at MVH.

Due to covid for the past 2 years the PC has stepped in to pay for the Parish Newsletter which relies on local advertising.

In the last 3 years, Cllrs Mark Taylor and Sue Darke resigned, Stephen Carter joined us but also resigned. We thank them all for their contributions. We welcome Steve Pearson who recently became a councillor. We are very sorry to lose Paul Green a long-standing Cllr who has retired after many years invaluable service and wish him well.

We were so very sad to lose Ray Staff in March, our much-loved Harbour Master and the face of HC for nearly 30 years. We had a tremendous working relationship with Ray and will miss him. We very much look forward to working with Sean.

Finally, we couldn't do our job without the help and support of parishioners, so thank you.

Thank you to my fellow councillors and especially to our lovely clerk.