

Ovington Parish Council

Chairman's report 2020/2021

This has been a challenging year for us all, as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to prevail, however despite this we have continued to function and have complied with all statutory requirements.

First of all I would like to thank Councillor Trish Hanson, our deputy Chair for all her hard work, although Trish has resigned her office I am sure she will remain an active supporter of our village. Jo Harper has replaced Trish as a councillor: congratulations Jo and we welcome you to the council.

There have been two notable achievements in the year; our campaign to restrict the proposed developments in the field behind the village hall and the progress made in achieving conservation status for the village; thank you in particular to Councillor Shaun Hanson who has provided sound advice and leadership.

I would also like to thank Councillor Peter Levitt for his continued support and in particular for organising the VE celebrations last summer under the difficult Covid restrictions, this was an outstanding success enjoyed by all in the village.

Councillor Julie Parkes has continued to look after our accounts and has successfully completed the AGAR returns. The end of year position is as follows:

Income , including VAT refunds, NIB refund and interest paid was £2,435.97

Expenditure, including VAT, £2,435.21

Reserves at year end £4,221.92

The 2021/2022 Precept was received on 7 April, this was for £1,979.00. The amount of funds at start of current financial year is therefore £6,200.92

The village is moving closer to receiving ultra fast broad band with the help of government and Durham County Council grants: we have collaborated with Hutton Magna and surrounding areas to pursue this work with a company called FACTO, a submission has been made to central government for approval. Mr David Bottoms from Hutton Magna is leading this work on behalf of the local communities involved.

We have finally managed to re-establish contact with Durham County Council regarding the trees in the village; it has been confirmed that DCC will carry out intermittent inspection and will in future send the council a copy of the report.

Finally I would like to thank Amanda Wilson for her continued support as our Parish Clerk, for coordinating the enormous e mail traffic, producing timely notes of meetings, uploading information onto the web site and for arranging our 'zoom' meetings when we were unable to meet face to face.

Nigel Parkes

Chairman Ovington Parish Council.

18 May 2021