

## Chairman's Report to the Winterborne Kingston Village Meeting 2021.

Due to the Pandemic, it has been a long time since the last report I gave to a Village meeting, and reading through the report from 2019 it reminded me how much has happened in the intervening couple of years.

Obviously, this period has been dominated by the COVID outbreak and before saying anymore I would like to extend my thanks to network of volunteers who with the assistance of the Parish Council and the Red Post Benefice were able to set up so quickly last year and do so much to help the vulnerable members of our community during the first (and indeed subsequent) lockdowns. Carrying out tasks such as shopping, pharmacy collections or even just being someone to talk to for the people in our village who were shielding. Despite the initial uncertainty about the lethality of COVID 19 and nobody really knowing how contagious it was or how it spread, within in a few days of the announcement of lockdown we had delivered leaflets to every house in the Parish offering assistance and had over 40 volunteers coordinated on a WhatsApp group who were willing and ready to assist their neighbours and fellow villagers- many of whom would have been previously unknown to them. The assistance provided was very much appreciated by those who received it and it something that this Village can and should be enormously proud of. Special thanks should go to councillor Allcock for coordinating this effort.

Though the Parish Council has been occupied with the getting to grips with the fallout from COVID and adopting to the position we now find ourselves in I am glad to report that getting Zoom to work has not been our only achievement.

Though many of our plans have been put on hold whilst meeting in person has not been possible- for example- the neighbourhood plan- we have managed to make some improvements to the village.

Since my last report but prior to lockdown our Speed Indicator Devices and Village gates have been, installed and have been happily working. Unfortunately, due to COVID speed watch has not been

able to take place but prior to that the indications were that the measure we had taken were helping and hopefully they will continue to be of assistance as we return to normal.

We have added to the equipment at the play area at the recreation ground and that is now looking the best it has for many years and the feedback from the parents and children has been overwhelmingly positive. As well as new equipment we have also expanded the fledging woodland planted at the recreation ground with the addition of some apple trees to create a community orchard, which we hope will eventually become an asset to the village for years to come.

After going out to Tender we have a new Grass cutting contractor, Colin Pitman who as well getting the parts of the village he's paid to do looking better than they have for many years has voluntarily cleared a lot of the ground up at the rec and found us an extra area of playing field from under the bushes. Moving forward Colin will be taking on the maintenance of the Recreation ground and I'm sure he'll keep that looking amazing as well.

Graham Hyde our longstanding Flood Warden stepped down this year and has been replaced by James Allen. Graham has done a fantastic job as the flood warden and it is in no small part to due to his efforts, pestering landowners and statutory bodies and making sure the river is clear that we were able to avoid floods in the village over the winter of 2019/20- despite water levels being as high as they were in years when we have experienced significant flooding.

With only a small "inflation" increase in the precept for 2019 we able to reduce the precept slightly for 2021.

Moving forward I anticipate the challenges of the next year to be the Neighbourhood plan and the Local Government review, the parish council will also continue to look for opportunities to improve the recreation ground as an when more equipment becomes available.