

## Chairman's Report to the Winterborne Zelston Parish meeting, May 2021.

The period since our last meeting 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 the village who were shielding, Within in a few days of the announcement of lockdown leaflets had been delivered to every house in the Parish offering assistance and volunteers were coordinated on a WhatsApp groups for each village who were willing and ready to assist their neighbours and fellow villagers. The assistance provided was very much appreciated by those who received it and the Whatsapp Group for Zelston is still continuing now with community updates and questions being asked (and answered) on it . Special thanks should go to councillor Newman for coordinating this effort in Zelston.

Though the Parish Council has been occupied with the getting to grips with the fallout from COVID and thus 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 continue with the day to day responsibilities of the parish council, commenting on planning applications, various maintenance issues such as the notice board and boulders that will be discussed later. as well as adapting to the creation of the Dorset unitary authority, We have also been looking into the Local Government Review and the setting up of a Parish meeting to replace the LWPC in Zelston. We have carried out extensive consultation on this and depending on the feelings expressed in this meeting I expect this to be a significant issue for the coming year.