

Moments Silence.

Chairman's report

Thank you.

Since the last annual parish meeting in 2020, if we can remember that far back, much of the work of the Parish Council has been conducted under emergency powers. During that time the Clerk has worked closely with both myself and the Vice Chairman to ensure that our statutory duties were completed.

Councillors received regular email updates, the normal email distribution, including planning and the Clerk ensured that all councillors were consulted and their vote registered before any important decisions have been made.

Some felt that we should hold remote monthly meetings. However, as we all know, Mellor has inherent problems with the reliability of the local broadband supply on which "Zoom" relies.

Also, protocols would have had to be agreed by all Cllrs before any remote meetings could take place. How were we to agree the protocols without being able to meet physically!

Anyway, we are now back to our normal way of working and we are playing catch up.

So, I would like us all to concentrate on the future and how we can enhance the lives of the residents of the parish.

We are looking into the possibility of providing additional defibrillators at 2 locations in the village conscious that at the moment there are only 2 at the Millstone and the Village Hall.

Following consultation with local residents and discussions within the Council, we have asked for draft costings to re-design the grassed area above the Children's Playground and hope to progress this during the year. I am hopeful that we can start off by tree planting in recognition of the Queens' Jubilee.

We are liaising with MCA regarding the Jubilee celebrations and will be discussing, tonight, what support both financial and practical, we can offer.

I have spoken regularly to Paul Wallace Chairman of MCA regarding the damage to the hall floor following flooding and I know he is working hard to find a solution. That said, I understand the additional drainage facilitated by the Parish Council is working well

Cllr Hymas continues to look at the proposed The Mellor 2020 Footpath Project. I hope that this can now be progressed in line with the decision some time ago.

The iconic red telephone kiosk on Mellor Lane, now owned by the Parish Council is being considered as a site for a defibrillator. We now need to decide on its future use.

As I have said before, we continue to press LCC Highways to look at the issues regarding speeding in and around Mellor. I am in contact with Ramsgreave Parish Council, who have the same issue. Hopefully we can combine forces to ramp up the pressure on LCC to act. I have also had meetings with Nigel Evans MP regarding a range of local issues including speeding.

We acquired "litter picking" equipment, but unfortunately due to Covid Rules this was put on the back burner. Perhaps a group of volunteers can make use of the equipment to keep our streets clean. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact the Clerk.

Dog fouling remains an issue yet strangely no-one sees anything...it must be early morning or late-night dog walkers who are responsible.

MPC continues to respond to planning applications as they come in and are acutely aware of the concerns of residents regarding major developments at various locations in the area. That said, we are only a consultee and able to express opinions both for and against applications provide they are 'material' and relevant to planning, for example: Noise, nuisance, disturbance overshadowing, out of character, road safety, against local planning guidelines contained in the Ribble valley Core Strategy which runs to 182 pages and the National Planning Policy Framework which runs to 75 pages.

We are also aware that the core strategy needs updating and have recommended to RVBC that Parish Councils receive updated guidance on any new regulations as they come into force.

I'm sure I have not covered everything but it was only a round up.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Cllrs for their support, constructive comments and understanding over the last 2 years. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Hymas who has given sage advice and enormous help to both me and the Clerk.

Hopefully, normal service is now resumed.

P Cllr Nick Marsden, Chairman, Mellor Parish Council.