

**KINLET PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2020.**

It is never easy summarising a year's activities for a report but this year has been a particularly challenging one on a number of fronts.

Regular monthly meetings have been held throughout the year on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall with 15 minutes parishioners' time allocated at the beginning of the meeting. Two extra meetings were held in March – one to discuss a planning application which was to hand and the other an extraordinary meeting to approve delegated powers to the clerk and chairman to enable the affairs of the Council to continue during the Coronavirus pandemic when meetings were possibly not being held in the normal manner. At our July meeting we had a representative from Airband speak to us about the benefits and possibilities for rural areas.

Mr Peter Kirton was re-elected chairman again at our May meeting and Mrs J. Rowley took on the role of Vice Chairman for the first time. Our representatives on the Village Hall Committee continue to be Mr D. Haywood and Mr P. Horsfall with Mr Simon Harris continuing his representation at the Areas Committee meetings. Mr D. Haywood is also continuing his representation on the Cleobury Youth Partnership and the Local Joint Committee which continues in a different format.

Full discussions have taken place in relation to all planning applications received – 20 in total during this period – after which recommendations (not decisions) have been sent to Shropshire Council for them to include in their deliberations.

Much time and effort has been spent both at, and between, our meetings in relation to the decreasing and worrying condition of our roads – some of which have become quite dangerous to use. The bad weather during the winter months and the increasingly difficult financial situation at Shropshire Council has meant that many of the repairs have either been badly attended to or received no attention at all. This has proved to be extremely frustrating both to ourselves and also to the road users but we have been assured that major re-organisation in the highways department at Shrewsbury will soon start to improve matters and we do hope this will prove to be the situation.

It was disappointing to learn that our Lengthsman, who has carried out some sterling work for us over the past few years, was having to retire due to ill health and we are hoping to find a replacement shortly as some of the more routine work he was able to undertake took pressure off ourselves and Shropshire Council.

The updating of our Parish Plan has continued during the year with a consultation taking place with each household in the Parish and the co-ordination of these results is currently taking place. The Cleobury Mortimer Place Plan into which we feed our comments, is also in the process of being updated.

During the year we have made a number of donations - £500.00 was paid towards the proposed new defibrillator at the Button Oak Public House and also donations were made to Kinlet School/St. Mary's Youth Project/West Midlands Air Ambulance Charity/Cleobury Youth Partnership/Highley First Responders/Severn Hospice and Severn Hospice at Home. We also paid for the replacement of the kitchen units at the Village Hall during its refurbishment.

As always we have been able to have the benefit of Mrs M. Shineton's and Mr Gwilym Butler's attendance at our meetings and we thank them for their continued interest and advice. Unfortunately Mr. Butler has not been able to attend latterly due to ill health and we wish him well with his continued recovery.

No report can conclude at this present time without reference being made of the Covid 19 situation and the worrying and difficult situation which exists at the present time and the restrictions currently in place. This has meant that at the present time our meetings cannot take place in the normal manner and we have subsequently cancelled our April and May meetings in accordance with permitted regulations. We are currently pursuing the position re holding meetings remotely but there are many ramifications when doing this which need to be looked into carefully and adapted for each individual parish council's needs.

It is difficult at this present time to visualise what the future may hold and when life will return to anything like 'normal' but parishioners can be assured that the Parish Council is always working in the best interests of the whole parish and happy to help in any way they can whatever the concern maybe – please do not hesitate to contact any councillor or clerk in this respect.

J.M. Burgess (Clerk)

April 2020.