

Annual Parish Meeting 2021

During the year Karen Pitney and Daniel Endruweit left the Council and we thank them for their assistance whilst they were Councillors. In their place we welcome Alistair Pearson, Pam Ayers and Matthew Lupton.

How have we represented you during the two years?

The Covid 19 pandemic has made the last 12 months difficult for all of us and we have had to find new ways of working and communicating. That is the reason why there was no meeting last year and this year we are just issuing a statement from our Chair.

Like many people we have discovered and embraced virtual meetings and have continued to represent our residents throughout this challenging year.

I have to thank Christine (Parish Clerk) and Kate (Assistant Clerk) for their outstanding work, well above what was required to assist you all during these troubled times. Chris (Groundsman) has continued to carry out the required maintenance.

I would like to welcome the 39 residents in Stonecote Ridge who became part of the Parish of Chalford in April 2020, following the Community Governance review.

I mentioned last year that there was a development proposal for land at Middle Hill. Despite 150 objections from this Parish and our involvement in the Development Control Committee the application was passed by one vote. We strongly objected to the way that the meeting was handled and the gross mis information that was given by the planners. I know that a number of Parishioners have lodged objections with both SDC and the Ombudsman. We appreciate that we lost that battle and 31 houses will be built but rest assured that we will not lose the war and we will be investigating ways and doing our utmost to prevent any further development on the land that lies between Manor Village and Chalford.

Your Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency and as a result we now have ChalCAN which is going from strength to strength. You will have noticed the work that Bio Diversity are doing in various parts of the Parish and the trees that have been and continue to be planted.

We have been investigating how we can improve the Parish Centre's carbon neutral status. As a result, we have changed all the lighting to LEDs and will be installing solar photovoltaic panels. The next stage is to have an electric charge point installed for use by residents.

We are working hard with GCC highways and Gloucestershire Police to make the four ways cross roads safer and reduce the excessive speeds that have been recorded here. Over 100 cars a day cross Middle Hill at speeds over 40mph. A Gateway scheme has now been installed involving new markings on the road on the approach to the crossroads.

We have removed 51 ash trees from Frith wood and 27 from the Valley all of which were either dead or in a very poor condition. The next stage of the felling will be at the end of 2021/beginning of 2022 to eradicate ash dieback and make our areas safe.

We opened a very successful children's play area in France Lynch which has been well received by both Children and parents. I would like to thank the parents who gave their time and assistance as their help was invaluable. Most of the cost of the play equipment has been funded from grants.

In collaboration with Gloucestershire County Council, we funded the installation of a new bus shelter on The Ridgeway.