

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting – 11 May 2021

Good Evening and Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It is good to be back to a situation where we can all meet again 'face to face' and whilst we cannot all be in attendance this evening it is a start.

Last March and April the Covid-19 Pandemic put an immediate stop to meetings and Decision-Making Authority was delegated to the Clerk. We got back on track with a 'Zoom' Meeting in July and a meeting in the Youth Club in September. Unfortunately, since then all of our meeting(s) have had to be virtual and whilst this initially presented some problems, we have been able to continue meeting and as a result we have all learned new Skills this year. Many of us had not even hear of Zoom or Microsoft Teams before let alone had to use it. It is a Credit to all of the Councillors that they have adapted and continued to embrace this Technology in order to ensure Easington PC continued to fulfil its obligations to the Parish. Thank you.

Setting aside the impact of the Pandemic, the last year has been an extremely difficult year for everyone concerned, for the Parish Council the previous Chair resigned mid-way through their term of office and the Clerk also handed in her resignation following the exposure of her deceit over many years and disorganisation of PC affairs. In conclusion a very turbulent year.

In addition, various Councillors have resigned and been replaced by Co-Option. Thankfully as 'Vice-Chair' I had to step in and we were able to source a replacement 'Clerk' at short notice who took on the role in the interim period working tirelessly to get the PC back on an even keel, for which I am personally very grateful. Kim was subsequently employed on a permanent basis ensuring that the Parish Council continued to be able to function in an efficient and legal manner. Following the appointment of the new Clerk, Kim Dalton we have revised many of our policies and procedures all of this is available to view on the Website.

In addition, our 'Litter Picker' for Easington – Alison Lusmore was unable to carry out her duties for a period of time – thankfully, the Duke of Edinburgh participants supported by Christina Keyworth stepped up and carried out 'Litter Picking' around Easington on a voluntary basis – Thank you to all involved in this.

The advantage of 'Virtual' Meetings is that any Training has been available to Councillors from their own home, and I know that this utilised especially for new Councillors.

This year we have appointed a new Grass Cutting Contractor – this was the only tender the Parish Council received and so far, they are doing a 'Great Job'.

The Parish Council are in the process of revising the Emergency Plan and letter were sent to all residents, the final Emergency Plan is nearing completion.

Health & Safety Procedures of the Parish Council has been revised, this is especially important regarding meetings to ensure we comply with Government Guidelines and the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Moving forward the Parish Council want to undertake a complete review of the Parish Plan and this will take place over the following months.

Our aim is to support you as the Community, and we can only do this if you tell us what you want from us, please contact the Parish Council if you have any comments/concerns or suggestions.

Ian Smith - Chair

Appendix a