

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2020/21

As this is my first report since becoming Chairman in 2019, there not being an Annual Meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic, I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to thank the Councillor's, Clerk and RFO for all their hard work in what has been a challenging year for everyone. We all had to learn new technology as meetings went online but the positive side of this was that less travelling was involved.

We met with MSDC to discuss the use of Section 106 funds from Clock Field and have been working with MSDC to get an upgrade to the play area. We are hopeful that this work will progress this year. We also discussed improvements to The Ark both internally and externally and all quotes have been received and we are awaiting approval to start work.

The new Clock Field homes are now mostly inhabited as are the new homes in Sopers Ride. The footpath from the Clock Field estate to the recreation ground is well used by many residents, not only those living on Clock Field.

During the past year we have continued to maintain Withypitts Pond with the help of Councillors and residents to whom we are extremely grateful. Matthews (Sussex) Limited kindly cleared a lot of the reeds from the Pond at no cost to the Parish Council, which we were very grateful. They were due to do some more work in the Spring of 2020 but this could not be completed due to the pandemic. Work to eradicate Japanese knotweed around the pond is continuing.

We were delighted to present the Civic Award to Jonathan Pratt in January 2020 in recognition of his hard work with the Speedwatch team and also the erection of the speed indicator devices and signs around the Village. Mick Harris was nominated in January 2021 in recognition of his assistance to those in need of help in the Village but due to meetings being held virtually we have not been able to present Mick with the Cup or Certificate but hope to do this in the coming months.

Additional grass cutting continues to be undertaken on the verge on North Street which is used as a 'footpath' and also the verge on East Street. In addition, the hedge on East Street is being cut annually to keep the footpath clear. This work is funded by the Parish in addition to any grass cutting carried out by WSCC.

Work has now been completed to ensure we comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations and the Parish Council's fully compliant website went live in January 2020.

The Council remains pro-active in its dealings with both Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council attending numerous meetings and conferences and commenting on consultation documents from them and from Government. When doing so, our main priority is always to put forward the needs of Turners Hill.

Our successful Cluster Meetings continue to be held on a regular basis. These meetings allow us to share information and discuss current issues with our

neighbouring Councils of East Grinstead, Worth, West Hoathly, Ardingly, Ashurst Wood and Balcombe. A Speed Indicator Device has been purchased by those Councils involved with the Cluster Group and it will be seen around the villages during the year. We hope that it reminds motorists throughout the area to keep to the speed limit!

Another mobile Speed Indicator Device was donated to us by Mr Burnham, Director of Greenplan Designer Homes (the developer of Sopers Ride) at the end of 2019 for the Parish Council to use around the Village. The Council are most grateful for the generous donation.

We continue to deal with all the normal issues such as:

- Planning applications – of which there have been several of importance to residents!
- Donations to St. Leonard's Church for the upkeep of the Church Yard; the Parish News which allows us to share information with residents, as well as grants for village organisations.
- Management, maintenance and letting of The Ark, although the letting in the past year has been greatly reduced.
- Managing the letting of the court and football pitch on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council

We would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Our Clerk and RFO who provide an excellent service to the Council and residents.
- Mrs Thelma Mason and Mr Martyn Mason for their time as Stewards and we would like to thank our current Stewards Mr Michael Keeler and Mrs Karen Bolt for keeping The Ark sterilised and clean for those that have been able to use The Ark, i.e. Osteopath, Foot Clinic and Post Office, as well as some clubs when they were able to return.
- Mrs Ann Bolt for all her hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Enhancement Scheme and for supporting the Clerk and RFO.
- Dr Ian Gibson for his support as our District Councillor.
- Worth Horticultural Society for judging the Best Kept Allotment competition.
- Mr Jonathan Pratt for co-ordinating Speed Watch and for dealing with the Speed Safety signs and Speed Indicator Device around the Village.
- Mrs Jennie Forbes for organising and collating the Museum documents and displays.
- Mr Cox for supplying skips on various occasions during the year.
- Mr Cox of Cox Skips and Mr Beare of Tulleys Farm for donating the WWI Memorial Benches which are located on the Village Green and at St Leonard's Church.
- The Paddockhurst Estate for supplying the Village Christmas tree annually.
- The Fire Service and local companies who sponsored, erected and decorated the Christmas Tree.
- Turners Hill Parish News for allowing us to use the magazine to keep you informed throughout the year.
- Mr Jarvis for his assistance in moving grit around the village in order to maintain a full supply for residents during bad weather.

Bruce Forbes, Chairman