

Chairperson's Overview of the Parish Council Year 2019-2020

Over the past year I have again held the privileged position of Chairperson of Coppull Parish Council and, together with fellow members of the Parish Council, have continued to make improvements within the village and amenities for the residents of Coppull, a position which I thoroughly enjoy and am passionate about.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of 2020, a pandemic has affected the world and changed the way in which we live and work. The Parish Council office has remained open for telephone and email enquiries only. The Clerk and Councillors who are able to, are helping around the village, collecting prescriptions and shopping for local residents. The full-time Lengthsman, Tony, is also still working, keeping a social distance, but the two part-time Lengthsmen, Chris and Sven, are not, as they both live with other vulnerable adults.

I would like to thank everyone for their help over the past year and also for their help and commitment during this crisis. Special thanks also to Janice Farrimond, Cleaner for the Parish Council, who finished work earlier in the year.

These are a few examples of what the Parish Council is involved in:

- CIL money – a large amount of money has been received and after consultation with residents through the newsletter, it has been agreed to use this towards a Neighbourhood Plan and a new Village Hall.
- Precept - the Parish Council raised the precept by **just over £500** for the coming year. Increases have been kept very low for many years, but the Parish Council now needs to build reserves for maintenance of play areas and gardens for the future. The CIL money cannot be used for maintenance or put into the precept, it is only for projects within the village. Full accounts and the Financial Statement can be viewed at the Parish Council offices. The Financial Statement will also be placed on the website, with the precept for next year.
- Play Areas – All the play areas are inspected regularly by Parish Councillors and Chorley Council and will be continued to be maintained by the Parish Council.
- Gardens – the gardens are looked after by the Parish Council's Gardener, George Evans, and a contractor who does the main mowing, etc. The Memorial Garden is still cared for by volunteer, Bill Bailey. The Jubilee Garden received funding from Chorley Council and the Parish Council and a throne type chair for children has been obtained, a large wooden crocodile and a large bird house. These will be installed as soon as possible.
- Allotments – the Allotment Committee and plot holders continue to keep the area extremely well. Some plots have changed hands since the allotments were opened, but there is still a small waiting list and further smaller plots are being looked at where possible.
- Nature Reserves – Chorley Council continues to look after the reserves in Coppull. The village is extremely lucky to have all these amenities on the doorstep.

- Volunteers – as well as Bill there are other volunteers who help in various areas in the village and they do a great job – Olga (German Lane and flower beds) and Harry (around the old school, Chapel Lane)
- Speed Indicator Device – a SpID was obtained and at the moment is taken around the village by Parish Councillors to monitor speed in problem areas.
- Christmas Lighting – this was again installed by the Chairman and Bill Bailey on the Memorial Garden, with help from Chris , on the Berry Garden and on Spendmore Lane near the railway bridge. Lighting has also been installed on the exterior of the Leisure Centre.
- Dog Fouling – together with speeding vehicles and off road bikes, dog fouling is the biggest problem in the village. All litter bins now accept dog fouling and although the majority of dog owners pick up after their dogs, there are a number that don't and this is unacceptable, as it is such a danger to children and is not very nice when stepped in! Dog bag dispensers have been put around the village by the local Cubs and Scouts and the Parish Council has also obtained four which will be put up shortly. Dog Wardens from Chorley Council are to be more vigilant in the next year and will prosecute anyone caught not picking up after their dogs. The Parish Council will have no problem in naming and shaming these people in the newsletter.
- The newsletter is still produced four times per year and now has 16 full colour pages. This is an ideal way to keep residents informed of what is happening in their village and also to consult with residents, as it is hand delivered to every household. It was proposed at the beginning of this year to change the format to A5 size, as the cost of printing and delivering was growing. By the time my report is made official, the new size newsletter will have been delivered, by volunteers this time, due to the pandemic.

I am also a Trustee and Chairman of the Springfield Park Leisure Centre which is now closed due to the pandemic. I would again like to thank Pauline (also a Trustee) for managing the café very efficiently, Steve and Jordan who manage the Centre and all the staff. I hope everyone continues to work together for the benefit of residents when this situation allows us to open up again. I wish everyone all the best and stay safe.

The Parish Council's Annual Report is available from the Clerk or can be viewed on the website.