**Chairperson's Overview of the Parish Council Year 2020-2021**

Over the past year the Covid 19 pandemic has changed the way in which the Parish Council works. I was asked to remain as Chairman, as was the Vice-Chair, Marjorie Parkinson - a privileged position we are both very proud to have.

Meetings of the Parish Council were cancelled and only held when necessary or as statutory ones. Most were held by Zoom, or by Hybrid. Parish Councillors, the Clerk and residents, together with the full-time Lengthsman, Tony Blakeway, continued to work within the village, keeping everything “ticking over” and helping those in need with shopping and prescriptions, etc.

I would like to thank everyone for their help over this most unusual year and also for their help and commitment during this crisis.

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

* CIL money – this has provided the funds to help build a new Village Hall and to start the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. The CIL money cannot be used for maintenance or put into the precept, it is only for capital projects within the village.
* Precept - the Parish Council kept the precept for the coming year at just slightly less than last year, due to the effect the pandemic has had on some people’s livelihood. 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. The Parish Council is building on reserves, as work will also be needed on the Leisure Centre building in the coming years and.
* 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. The Memorial Garden is still cared for by volunteer, Bill Bailey.
* Allotments – the Allotment Committee and plot holders continue to keep the area extremely well. Many plots have now changed hands since the allotments were opened and further smaller plots have also been created. All are full at the present time.
* Nature Reserves – Chorley Council continues to look after the reserves in Coppull. LCC continues to look after Chisnall. 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 are do a great job – Olga (German Lane and flower beds) and

Harry (around the old school, Chapel Lane). Another volunteer off Chapel Lane is litter picking the area around Green Lane also.

* Speed Indicator Device – a SpID was obtained for taking around the village by Parish Councillors to monitor speed in problem areas. Unfortunately, this has not been working for some time and a repair is being sought.
* Christmas Lighting – this was installed by the Chairman and Chris Kay, with help from Cllrs Matthew Crook (transportation) and Paul Taylor (installation). A lot of the lights only last for a short time, due to the amount of time they are out in all weathers, but they are built on each year. The lights get very positive comments from local residents.
* Dog Fouling, Anti-Social Behaviour, Fly Tipping, Litter, Speeding Vehicles, Parking concerns – continue to be the main problems throughout the village.
* The newsletter was produced three times during 2020, the summer issue was missed due to problems with getting it printed and delivered. It was also reduced to 12 pages instead of 16 due to lack of content and less adverts.

I resigned as a Trustee and Chairman of the Springfield Park Leisure Centre during 2020, as I could not commit to it with the amount of work I wanted to do personally and for the Parish Council. However, I continue to help with the repairs of the building, as this is owned by the Parish Council.

I wish everyone all the best for this year and hopefully this is the start of things getting back to some sort of normality.

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**Michael Atherton**

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