** Chairman's Overview of the Parish Council Year**

**2021-2022**

I was again elected to the position of Parish Council Chairman in May 2021, as was the Vice-Chair, Marjorie Parkinson.

Meetings of the Parish Council returned to normal from May 2021 and it was resolved to hold Management & Finance meetings quarterly, with personnel meetings bi-monthly.

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

* CIL money – this has provided the majority of funding to help build a new Village Hall. 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 had to increase the precept this year. Last year it was just under the previous year’s amount, but everything has increased so there was no alternative but to make an increase. Full accounts and the Financial Statement can be viewed at the Parish Council offices. The Financial Statement will also be placed on the website, together with the precept for next year. The Parish Council has some reserves in place for any emergency repairs or to put towards the CIL money for the new Village Hall.
* Play Areas – All the play areas are inspected regularly by Parish Councillors, the full-time Lengthsman and Chorley Council and will be continued to be maintained by the Parish Council. Numerous repairs have been made this year to all of the play areas and painting of equipment. Funding will be sought for future improvements.
* 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 with a small waiting list.
* 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.
* Christmas Lighting – this was installed by myself with help from Chris Kay, Bill Bailey, Carl Brown. Many of the lights needed replacing, due to the amount of time they are out in all weathers, but apart from that not a great deal of new lights were obtained, as supply was very limited. However, any money left over in the budget has been passed on to next year, when hopefully new designs may be available.
* Dog Fouling, Anti-Social Behaviour, Fly Tipping, Litter, Speeding Vehicles, Parking concerns – continue to be the main problems throughout the village.
* The newsletter is back to being produced four times per year and has been mostly 16 pages. Thanks to the adverts, a great deal of the cost is now being recuperated. Hopefully this will continue throughout 2022.

I would like to thank everyone for the work they have done for the Parish Council over this year, especially the volunteers on the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. The plan is very involved, takes time to produce and needs commitment from the community for it to succeed.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who look after the gardens around the village, in particular Bill Bailey, who keeps the Memorial Garden in the centre of the village looking outstanding.

Thanks also to George Evans, the Parish Council’s gardener, who has worked very hard to keep all the gardens looking great and to the Parish Council Lengthsmen, Tony Blakeway, Sven Revill and Chris Frawley, who help to keep the streets clean and free from litter.

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**Michael Atherton**

**Chair of Coppull Parish Council**

**The Parish Council’s Annual Report is available from the Clerk**

**or can be viewed on the website.**

