

WHITTINGTON

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2020/21

I would like to begin this report in a similar vein to the one of last year but this time with a certain amount of cautious optimism. Last years meeting was understandably cancelled due to obvious reasons but now with increased technical confidence Parish Council are proud to present this Annual meeting via Zoom.

It has been a difficult year for everyone where priorities have been correctly focused on family and friends and not necessarily on the lowest tier of government usually tasked with the mundanities of providing services to the village, albeit on a limited budget.

Nevertheless circumstances have not prevented some limited achievements that we should all be pleased with and include, not necessarily in order of importance, the following.

The Food Bank has been a tremendous success. Donations have piled up outside the Village Hall on a weekly basis, indeed last week Morcambe Food Bank, the recipient of the villages generosity, was virtually overwhelmed with provisions deposited by an anonymous donor.

In addition to the Food Bank contributions the Parish Council, Village Hall and individuals came together after Christmas and donated in excess of £500 to the Charity .Parish Council hope this will become an annual event.

As we all know the Annual Gardening Competition, held under strict Covid protocol still went ahead in its expanded format attracting a record number of entries and will be held again this year.

VE Day and other celebrations were unfortunately cancelled last summer however assuming that restrictions continue to be relaxed and the Government Roadmap is still on course then celebrations including a Sports Day and barbeque will take place with a vengeance this summer. Details of this event will be announced at a later date and funded by the Parish Council and Village Hall. The venue will hopefully be the large field off Main Street kindly offered by Lord Reay.

After many years of failing to resolve the serious flooding at Low Hall corner Highways eventually carried out extensive groundworks to rectify what for

many years had been a dangerous traffic hazard. Parish Council and our local City Councillor in particular should take credit for this success.

Parish Council have for some time been aware of the dangerous state of the footpath adjacent to the River Lune and have made every effort to engage the appropriate authorities to have this right of way recognised. Aided by residents in the village correspondence has continued but to no avail. Despite accepting the poor state of repair funding is not forthcoming so Parish Council have taken the initiative in applying for a Grant to do the work themselves. This is in the early stages but we will be looking for volunteers to take this project forward if and when funding is allocated.

Many of you will be familiar with the Dragons Head pub, now vacant and for sale on Main Street. A small steering group of villagers have independently applied for the building to become a Community Asset. This application, supported by the Parish Council is still ongoing but if successful would, for a short space of time, enable fund raising from various sources to purchase the building and reinstate it to its former glory. I must emphasise this is still at application stage.

Finally I would like to thank Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and the PCC for all their efforts over what has been a most challenging year.

Colin Hall
Chairman