

## Chairman's Report 2019/2020

### Charlton and Newbottle APM - 27 April 2020

Welcome everyone to the first virtual meeting. The PC meeting on 18 May 2020 would also be held on Zoom unless Government advice had changed.

Thanks - Councillors and Clerk for their work over the last 12 months and County and District Council Rebecca Breese.

Elections – Due to the Pandemic, elections due to be held in May 2020 had been postponed until 6 May 2021. Therefore any terms of office which were due to expire in May 2020, had been extended to May 2021.

Covid-19 Pandemic – Since the beginning of April 2020, the Parish Council has been delivering free food boxes, once a week, to those in the village who are in need eg; self-isolating, elderly, shielding etc. If anyone would like a free food box, please contact they Clerk.

Pavilion and Playing Field – This project had been slow to progress during 2019/2020 however, prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, residents in the village had started to work on this again. It was hoped that once the Pandemic was over, the project would progress more quickly.

Grants - £650 had been donated to the PCC, £150 for The Link, £30 for a Remembrance Day wreath, £350 for the grass cutting at the Memorial Hall and £600 to cut the grass at the playing field.

Highways – The Parish Council has been liaising and meeting with County Council Highways Officers with regard to a number of issues including the verge outside Lagonda and the speed signs on Farthinghoe Road.

Housing Needs Survey – The Parish Council had been asked by Midland Rural Housing to comment on their draft Housing Needs Survey. This would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 18 May 2020.

Finance – Arrow Accounting had been appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2019/2020 and the audit had been completed without any recommendations. The Clerk would present the accounts for 2019/2020 later in the meeting.

Planning – The Parish Council had considered a number of planning applications and these were available to view on the South Northants Council web site. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, SNC were no longer writing to residents, they were only displaying site notices, which is all they are legally required to do.

Footpath - The proposal for a new footpath from the Cemetery to Newbottle Woods had been supported by the PC however the land owner, Astrop Estates, had not given their permission. This was because the land on which the footpath is proposed is part of a buffer strip that participates in the Government's Countryside Stewardship scheme and the Government's conditions of the scheme do not permit the land to also be used as a footpath. It would also be hazardous for walkers to use the footpath when field operations were in progress.

Precept for 2020/2021 – This had been increased by £12,000 to £13,000 because the Parish Council needed to build up a fund to be able to replace the street lights in the village, at the necessary time.

Dog Fouling – This had continued to be an issue in the village and the PC encouraged dog owners to clear up after their pets. A new dog waste bin had been installed in the grass verge, between the green cabinet and the hedge on Farthinghoe Road.

Grass Cutting – Mick Dempsey had done a good job again this year and had been awarded the contract for 2020/2021.

Litter Pick – This had unfortunately been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Web sites & The Link – Lisa Scanlon was still editing the village web site and the PC thanked her for her work. Julia Rands is thanked for all her work on The Link.