



Oldbury on Severn Parish Council

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Chair's Report to Annual Parish Meeting, May 2020

Well, it should be just that. My Annual Report to the Parish Meeting. However, for reasons that I am sure are obvious to everybody the Annual Parish Meeting cannot happen. Clearly we cannot have a physical meeting at present, nor likely for some while yet. However there are some duties that we have to carry out and we are doing our best to comply with those duties. We will do our best to listen to you all, but you will have to phone or e:mail your views to us for now. Please keep in touch, everything is on the website www.oldburyonsevern.org.uk. We do want to hear from you, whether it is good news or bad, we will endeavour to take the appropriate action.

In common with all Parish Councils we have to skip the Annual Meeting, including elections and so you have to put up with us for another year, but if anyone wants to help, as always, you will be very welcome. You can contact all of us by the appropriate e:mail

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Dylan Griffiths, Vice Chair	dylangriffiths500@gmail.com
Sheila Bedford, Communications	sheilabedford@hotmail.com
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Matthew Riddle	matthew.riddle@southglos.gov.uk
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Parish Councils have been given the power to hold 'virtual' meetings via video conferencing, though we have yet to discover whether Oldbury broadband speeds will be sufficient to allow this to happen! We hope to hold our first virtual parish council meeting in July – this will be advertised on the website and if possible on the parish noticeboards, along with details of how parishioners can 'attend' the meeting. Maybe this will be the catalyst for more residents to come and see what the council is doing on behalf of the community?

Well, what have we been doing?

To start the year we were two Councillors short, no election ballot was held as not enough people put their names forward; so we had to co-opt two more; then we had too many and had to choose! Thanks to all those who volunteered and especially to Sheila Bedford and Chris Jennings who are now performing their duties very well.

I must of course, as usual, thank all Councillors and the many other committee members who work so hard, we really would struggle without them. Thank you all.

Flooding and Planning Committee

I must start by talking about the flood relief work, Church Hill is of course the most noticeable, and I am sort of sorry that it caused such an obstruction, but a good job has been done and we will have less flooding as a result. Chapel Road was to have been completed by now, but perhaps the virus has caused delays there? I can assure you this will get chased. The other part of Church Road seems to have been forgotten, but not by me and the FPC. And we have not stopped there, we are talking to all the relevant authorities and I hope we are getting the message across. All these new houses mean more water, it's coming down here, we need some of the money that comes with it down here too! The FPC also look at local planning issues as well, for example, Naite Farm Dog Kennels. We failed I am afraid, but we did try.

Playing Fields Committee

The new heating system is installed in the Pavilion and has worked well all winter. A big thank you to the team who worked on this. I hope we can now see more bookings in the Pavilion, it is now a nice warm comfortable room! We can make more improvements, tell us what you want.

Road Safety Committee

The RSC started the year by giving many of us a speed limit sticker for our bins, I hope people observe the message. They have followed up with a message you cannot miss, the Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator (VAS). They came up with an innovative idea to halve the cost, we are sharing it with another Parish, good idea!

Neighbourhood Development Plan

This team has worked very, very hard, it is not their fault the rules keep changing. As Churchill said, it may not be the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning. Please give them all the support you can. And they do want to hear your comments. They always listen.

New Nuclear Build Committee

Nothing much to say here, we were expecting some announcements shortly after the budget but the virus seems to have got in the way.

Communications Committee

Through no fault of the members, this group have not had the opportunity to do very much this year. They have made several attempts to get it going and something has always happened. As soon as this virus is gone we will try again.

Admin

Our clerk, Emma Pattullo continues to serve us well and corrects my mistakes (sometimes quite a lot of them). There is change, as always. This year we have had to have new accounting software, which has made us look at a few things differently and resulted in changes to our accounting practices, particularly for the Playing Fields committee. We have also said goodbye to our previous Internal Auditor, Bill Pearce, thank you Bill for your work over many years, we will miss you.

Memorial Hall

The PC is the Sole Trustee for the "Oldbury-on-Severn War Memorial Hall Trust". That statement carries a lot of responsibility. A fact that I think the PC have ignored for a long time. This year we have been looking at that situation in considerable detail. We have studied the history from the very beginning to

the present time, we are writing a new constitution, and then we must implement it. It will mean that some Councillors will have to attend meetings of the hall committee. There may be other changes as well.

Some Minor Points

Minor in effort and cost but maybe high in benefit. We have put a new dog waste bin in West End and a handrail to help the elderly get onto the Pound. Some of the shop volunteers will in future look after the defibrillator.

Thank you for reading this.

Keith Sullivan

Chair

23rd May 2020