**WYSALL & THORPE IN THE GLEBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman's Report – April 2021

What a difference year makes! After a quick read through the Chairman’s report for 2019 showed what a busy village and parish council we have with many social activities taking place and raising money for charity. 2020/2021, the only real social event was VE day – more later.

Our last face to face meeting was in early March 2020 with no real appreciation as to what the next twelve weeks would bring. Our next meeting would be in June and would be held virtually with members getting to grips with modern technology and complying with the latest legislation. We have held many meetings successfully since and the work of the Parish and our clerk has continued successfully.

The only real social outings in March to May were the regular Clapping for Carers over a ten week period thanking all NHS staff and key workers helping us get through the first lockdown and the frightening rise in Covid cases and hospitalisations.

VE day celebration was a great day in May despite having the village hall barn dance cancelled. The sun was shining and people socially distanced themselves as they walked through the decorated village, playing music and chatting to real people – a great social occasion. The VE bench has now been installed and looks fantastic being a counter point the WWI memorial on the opposite side of the road.

The Church held a memorable Carol Service outside of the Church which was thoroughly enjoyed by many village residents.

Great work by Mike Stanley on the Gigabit Broadband opportunity which sadly got massively oversubscribed with Wysall eventually missing out. Hopefully the scheme will be re-opened and the work put to good use.

The village hall has seen various refurbishment and improvement projects undertaken, including new windows, decoration and internal doors.

The Parish Council has been lucky enough to receive a number of grants from various grant warding bodies (Notts CC £2000) and the Coronavirus Small business support fund had provided a £10,000 grant. A further grant of £4000 was received for the purchase and installation of a new notice board on the corner of Main Street and Widmerpool Road. So, despite a drop in rental income of some £4-£5k, the Parish is in a healthy position financially.

There has been a steady flow of planning applications during the year, both newbuild and extensions to existing properties – some straight forward, others somewhat more contentious – however, all dealt with in a balanced and professional manner by the council members.

I should like to take the opportunity to thanks a few people. Firstly Mike Elliott, whose knowledge of all things council related coupled with his network of key people in all manner of organisations makes the running of our parish so much easier. Mike, please pass my thanks on to you team as well.

I should like to thank my council colleagues who have worked alongside me for the last twelve months and for those who have offered to support the council again for the next 12 months. To thank Stephen Reeds who continues to look after our website and has ensured its compliance with accessibility standards. Thank you to Councillor John Cottee and Reg Adair for their ongoing support.

Thanks also go to the Village Hall committee, who ,despite having a very curtailed year, are now organizing a host of events in the coming months as lockdown is eased. Especial thanks go to Chris French.

Liz Smith has invested a huge amount of time collating and compiling a village memoir of the last twelve months with articles written by many residents of the village. This is now available for each household and a suggested donation of £5 is requested. It is a great piece of local history captured for everyone – well done Liz.

Finally, a thank you to all the villagers to who invest time and effort to make Wysall such a great place to live and look forward to a somewhat more upbeat 12 months ahead.

Sam Stephens Chairman