

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2020/2021 (1/4/2020 – 31/3/2021)**

The Parish Council (“the Council”) met on four occasions during the year. Inevitably its meetings and activities were very extensively disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions put in place by central government. As it was not safe to meet in person all Council meetings during the year had to take place “virtually” by means of Zoom, organised very efficiently by our Clerk, Gill Hollick.

As it was not possible to hold the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting in person or “virtually” that Meeting did not take place during the year.

At our meetings we have received Reports as necessary and appropriate either “virtually” or in writing from:-

<b>Our Public Path Warden</b>	Councillor David Fellows
<b>Our Tree Warden</b>	Mrs Jenny Cameron
<b>Our Local Police Community Support Officer</b>	PCSO Martin Butcher
<b>The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee</b>	Mr Donald Hill
<b>Our County and District Councillor</b>	Mr Tom Wells
<b>Our District Councillor</b>	Mrs Kathy Wells
<b>Our elected Trustee on the Board of Malvern Hills Trust (formerly Conservators)</b>	Councillor David Fellows

Our thanks go to all the above for their many and varied contributions to our proceedings.

### **MALVERN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION GROUP (“MPEG”)**

During the year the Council engaged as necessary with MPEG and its representatives, the purposes of MPEG being to preserve so far as possible the natural aspect of the Malvern Hills which could be impaired by inappropriate development on open and green space in and around Malvern. In late March 2021 the Council learnt of an application to Malvern Hills Trust for vehicular rights of way to be granted over its common land to land off Mill Lane (not far distant from the Parish boundaries) which if granted, could facilitate large scale residential development of such land with resultant impact on the natural aspect of the Malvern Hills and the iconic approach to Malvern from the east to say nothing of the large increase in vehicular traffic passing through the village.

### **AUDITING**

Mr Peter Hughes of Madresfield kindly agreed to be our Internal Auditor for the year. Councillor Andrew Medcalf has supplied regular reports as our Internal Financial Monitor. We are extremely grateful to both of them for their work and diligence.

### **PRECEPT**

The precept for the year was maintained at the 2019/20 level, viz £5,000.

## PLANNING

- a) During the year 9 planning applications for development within or close to the Parish boundaries were considered by the Planning Committee and where appropriate comments passed to Malvern Hills District Council Planning Department
- b) The Council received updates from our District Councillors Tom Wells and others on the emerging South Worcestershire Development Plan.

I would like to thank the members of the Planning Committee for the way in which they have gone about their business during the year.

## PARISH ENVIRONMENT

- (i) road safety at the Rhydd junctions and speeding along Clevelode Lane have remained of great concern to the Council and through its Local Traffic Management Sub-Group has with the assistance of our District Councillors engaged as appropriate with the County Council and (in respect of the Rhydd junctions) also with Malvern Hills Trust. The Council was pleased to note that by the end of the year some measures had been put in place along Clevelode Lane to reduce the speed of vehicles. However no satisfactory measures had been put in place at the Rhydd junctions by the end of the year
- (ii) with regard to the state of some of the public highways in the Parish the surface of Penny Close and Rectory Lane had been considerably improved over the course of the year but Blakes Lane (at the Plough and Harrow Public House end) remained of concern. With the assistance of our County Councillor (to whom we are grateful) the Sub-Group continued to engage in this respect with the County Council and Malvern Hills Trust
- (iii) the Council was delighted to appoint Mr Jeremy Moore as Parish Lengthsman. He started work in January. The necessary documentation involving him, the Parish Council and the County Council was put in place. The County Council fully reimburses to the Council the amount of his fees. This is a very positive step and we are pleased to welcome Jeremy as our contractor
- (iv) after major renovation and improvement the only public house in the Village, the Plough and Harrow, has been greatly affected by the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and has only been able to trade spasmodically and generally in the open air during the year
- (v) in November and much to the delight of the Council a defibrillator was installed on the outside wall of the Village Hall
- (vi) the Council has expressed its interest in the Climate Emergency Carbon Footprint Project involving the reduction of the carbon footprint in the Parish
- (vii) our District Councillors have kept us informed as to proposals to alter the boundaries of the Parish

## ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Gill Hollick has been our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the year and we are most grateful to her for all the time she has devoted to the job and for her boundless energy and enthusiasm, particularly during such a difficult year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. She has been ably assisted in financial matters by her husband, Roy, to whom we extend our grateful thanks also.

## **GUARLFORD PARISH WEBSITE**

The Website is a great asset and is regularly kept up to date by Mr Angus McCulloch to whom we extend our thanks.

### **GENERAL**

Finally may I thank Councillors for their attendance, varied contributions and support throughout the year.

M G Huskinson  
Chairman  
Guarlford Parish Council

25 April 2021