

CLERK'S REPORT 2020/2021 (1/4/2020- 31/3/2021)

The Covid pandemic has led to this being a challenging year for the residents of Guarlford, some have experienced social isolation while others have suffered emotional distress at being unable to mourn the loss of loved ones in the usual way due to pandemic restrictions. In line with legislation, social gatherings in the village hall have not been possible throughout the year, which has posed challenges for both the local community and the viability of the village hall.

In spite of the restrictions of the pandemic, community spirit has been evident throughout the year with neighbours supporting each other as far as possible. The regular 'Clap for Carers' at the beginning of the year gave residents the opportunity to greet each other in their front gardens while maintaining a social distance and showing their appreciation for the dedication of NHS staff and other essential services. The Parish Council endeavoured to offer support to residents signposting anyone in need to the 'Here 2 Help' volunteer scheme.

Throughout the year the Parish Council has received ongoing advice and support from CALC both on matters of response to the pandemic and other essential administrative processes.

The introduction of an Action Plan over the year has highlighted the Parish Council's progress towards achieving set objectives including progress towards contributing towards Malvern Hills District Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050 with a 50% reduction by 2030.

Finally, I am very grateful to Councillors for voting to increase my salary to the pay scale set by CALC and for their continued support to me as well as the community of Guarlford.

Gill Hollick
Clerk
Guarlford Parish Council
April 2021