

Report for the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting from the Chairman of the Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley Parish Council

The gradual reduction of Covid risks in the last year has seen us all begin to return to a more normal routine and the Parish Council return to face to face meetings. This report covers activities over the last twelve months, during which six regular meetings were held along with two extraordinary meetings. One in August to discuss a Lightsource Community Benefit Fund application and one in February to address a planning application with a tight deadline. Although Covid risk is much reduced all should continue to remain vigilant and sensitive to the fact that some members of the community remain vulnerable.

It is good to note that the community Facebook page which was set up during lockdown has continued to provide a useful forum for general community issues, events information, offers of unwanted items, etc. The Parish Council is also using this to publish information on meetings, road closures and other items of interest.

In addition to keeping up with the ever-growing requirements for policy and procedure documentation, much Parish Council time has been taken up with planning issues, particularly the continuing development of Castle Barns, the proposals for Albert Davies' brownfield site, and also smaller plans for, amongst others, The Bungalow at Pitchford, Bentley Ford Farm, Frodesley Court and Evenwood Cottage.

Three Enforcement Notices within the parishes currently remain with Shropshire Council and are regularly chased with little or no response. One of these relates to the exit from Stoneleigh Close and has been chased again following a recent accident. It is hoped that some action will finally be taken.

Highways also continue to require attention and it is good to note that some resurfacing in Pitchford is now to take place and that the section of pavement linking Stoneleigh Close to the main pavement in Acton Burnell has now been completed following over two years of "pushing". Other issues continue to be reported and, following a recent site visit from a highways representative, it is hoped that the water which runs through and over the pavement at the bottom of Burnell Bank will be stopped before next winter. Traffic calming measures continue to be considered and we are awaiting advice from Shropshire Council on available options.

Issues relating to local footpaths and bridleways are also closely followed, particularly the application for a new right of way from Pitchford to Golding

and the opening of the bridleway via Bentley Ford Farm, both of which are currently with Shropshire Council. The feasibility of a new footpath from Pitchford to Acton Burnell is also being assessed.

Unfortunately, a general lack of funds at Shropshire Council is impacting heavily on services and the Council's ability to respond to our requests.

On more positive note, the Parish Council has provided a significant grant to the Pitchford Village Hall Committee to assist with the refurbishment of the Village Hall. All should be pleased with the results and the Committee are to be congratulated for their hard work in pulling this together. The hall now provides a good venue for events, group and club meetings, etc. and all are encouraged to make full use of this amenity. The Parish Council is open to provide support to any new community-based groups and has supported the mother and toddler playgroup which was recently established.

The Parish Council also continues to fund Village Views which is published quarterly. Thanks are extended to the volunteer group who work hard on this. May also sees the publication of the Village Directory which the group produces and which is funded from the local advertising which it carries.

Beacon lighting has been arranged to mark the Platinum Jubilee and the Parish Council is supporting the Jubilee Picnic at Pitchford Hall. Tree planting is planned for later in the year and it is hoped to find suitable sites in each of the four villages.

The Parish Council remains in a strong financial position and is continuing to pursue items raised in the Community Led Plan for which funding is set aside.

This is the end of my first year as Chairman which has been both interesting and eventful. My thanks go to our clerk, Anna Morris who has been extremely diligent in her support, and, of course my fellow councillors, particularly John Long who is stepping down as Vice Chairman following our annual meeting.

Paul Harrison