



WALBERTON, BINSTED & FONTWELL PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Under new COVID-19 regulations I have been re-elected as Chairman of the council and am pleased that Andrew Ratcliffe is re-elected as Vice Chairman.

Our parish councillors whose positions on committees will remain as last year are:

Andrew Ratcliffe, Andy Vawer, Bob Rogers, Douglas McElvogue, Malcolm Porter, Paul Fisher and Jo Shackleton, who was co-opted last July. Our clerk is Andy Pepler.

The council has three main committees, Planning, General Purposes and Finance and several others such as Staff Matters, Neighbourhood Plan, Community Resilience and working parties - Environmental and Green matters, Avisford Grange, Fontwell Green, Highways, Climate Change and the WalBinFont team organising our villages events.

The chairman's report is usually presented at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) which was due to be held on the 19th May. This along with numerous other events was cancelled due to the current pandemic. I trust that this report will help you understand how your Parish Council works for you.

General Purposes have worked on the Pavilion and office which have continued to be upgraded and improved. Bookings for the playing field and Pavilion increased again last year giving us an income of almost £7,000. This figure will be drastically reduced this financial year due to the pandemic. Various tree works have been done including, unfortunately 3 which died. We have now found a supplier, who we hope is acceptable to the insurance company, for a suitable wooden bus shelter replacement following its demolition.

Flooding – we applied for help with a grant from West Sussex Operation Watershed for work at the top of Barnham Lane, near the Pond. All applications are currently on hold.

The Planning committee has reviewed almost 100 planning applications and its working groups have been liaising with the developers at Avisford Grange and Fontwell Meadows to ensure we secure the best possible outcomes.

Our Neighbourhood Plan although in place, is now considered out of date, as Arun DC have since published their updated Local Plan. Arun have requested that we allocate sites for an additional 60 homes in our Parish. We have therefore commenced our Review, which has been delayed due to COVID-19 but you can read about our proposals in Neighbourhood News and on our web site.

Your support is key in helping us offer the best solution to Arun's housing shortage. So please answer any questions posed – we need your support in our evidence base.

The Finance & Legal committee continues to monitor our budget and ensure that all our policies are both up to date but also relevant to our villages. A resident complimented us recently, having looked at other parish councils web sites for information, saying how clear and easy to find our policies were.

Would you like to get more involved in looking after our local environment? We need volunteers to help keep an eye on our trees and hedges – as well as the car park, play areas, bus shelters and seats – and report anything that needs doing. You might like to take a specific area, such as

Arundel and Old London Roads, Dairy Lane and Homefield Crescent, The Meadows and Parsons Walk, the Pond, or the Green.

We want to keep our villages tidy so we had planned a Litter Picking and Painting Day in July – we hope that this may now be in September.

Our web site is very well used. Social media also plays a key role in keeping people abreast of what is happening in our villages – particularly during these challenging times.

The resident's monthly newsletter has a high level of engagement. During the pandemic we increased this to a weekly update which you have thanked and complimented us on.

The A27 Arundel Bypass posed us many challenges. The first consultation was in October 2018, and a second one closed on 1st March 2019. An announcement on a preferred route was expected by now. However, the pandemic has caused a delay and we wonder whether they will be taking into account some of the changes to working practices and transport as a result of COVID-19.

Next month's WalBinFont weekend has been cancelled but the team are ready to go as soon as it is deemed safe.

You have a strong and committed Parish Council dedicated to producing what you, the people of the Parish want. They enjoy their roles, social connections and participation in events, have a true sense of purpose and most importantly, managed to have fun and a laugh.

Don't forget all our meetings are open to the public, whether it be electronically or in person, with an opportunity to ask questions and offers of help are always welcome.

A big thank you to everyone, particularly over the last 3 challenging months. Our community has pulled together extremely well with voluntary service, support and hard work.

Suzanne Clark - Chairman Walberton Parish Council.

June 2020