Chairman's Report

Middleton Tyas Parish Council

AGM 20th May 2021

The year 2020 started with uncertainty as the Coronavirus pandemic spread across the world, changing life as we knew it.

For the Parish Council this meant the April and May general meetings were cancelled and government emergency legislation was introduced allowing that the Annual General Meeting did not need to be held and gave power for PC meetings to be held virtually rather than face to face to abide by the social distancing rules.

Some Parish Councils have struggled to operate in this way, but I am pleased to say that Christine Jones, the Parish Clerk, set to work ensuring the efforts of the Parish Council could continue to function as normally as possible, using the Zoom platform to facilitate our meetings. Our thanks go to Christine for taking on the challenge so the village could continue to benefit by having a fully functional Parish council.

Our first Zoom meeting was held in June, when, after two years at the helm our Chairman, Gordon Davies decided to step down. We are lucky that Gordon has continued to share his experience and passion as a Councillor in the Vice- Chairman role, and we thank him for all his efforts.

At the start of the pandemic, we were able to secure funding from the Coronavirus Grant Scheme to purchase a printer for the Village News, so that the newsletter could continue to be printed in house while business had to close under the government emergency measures. The printer remains available to anyone in the village who wishes to use it for a reasonable fee.

One of our main projects this year has been the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) to tackle speeding traffic through the village. This project has been several years in the making being first proposed by District and County Councillor Angus Thompson as a joint venture between other local villages, evolving to the purchase of our own village VAS sign. We secured a 58.3% grant from the Community Infrastructure Fund and the sign will be up and running sometime over the summer.

With the help of our Handyman Mike, we have installed a Dog Waste Bin on Cow Lane in response to increased concerns about the amount of dog waste not being removed from around the village. Cllr Clare Lamb sourced some litter pickers that are available for residents to use. During lockdown litter picking has become more popular, with our younger residents becoming involved and organising their own village litter picking events.

A smart mobile phone has been purchased for the use of the Clerk, so that council business can be conducted 'on the go'. This will make life easier for uploading photographs and accessing emails.

The Play park was closed for the duration of the first lockdown. Following government guide- lines we implemented a weekly clean schedule involving washing down high touch points and seating areas, carried out by our Handyman. This cleaning schedule remains in place and will do so until restrictions ease further.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Cllr Leanne Harknett in March this year stepping down after several years dedication to the village to concentrate on other projects. We thank her for all her hard work and

passion and wish her well in her future endeavours. This means we now have two councillor vacancies.

The account cash balance stands at £18352 as of 31st March 2021. Income for the year was £16387, including the precept of £15000.

Expenditure was £15374. More financial details are contained in the Treasurer's report.

Cllr Samantha Perks

Chairman Middleton Tyas Parish Council