

At the Annual Parish Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH** held via Zoom on **6 APRIL 2021**, at **7.00pm**.

PRESENT

Cllr Emma Urquhart (Chair)

Cllrs Charlotte Greening, KD Johnson, Janet Dover, Leslie Gibson, Nigel Bridle, Christina Davies, Mark Keniston, Claire Davison, Michael Gibbs, Roger Warner, Andy Gale

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Natalie Borrill – unanimously accepted.

Dorset Councillor Maria Roe

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Z Caddy – Clerk and one member of the public.

755.21 WELCOME

Cllr Urquhart welcomed the Members and guest present

756.21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2019, having been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

757.21 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cllr Urquhart’s report was as follows:

Good evening and welcome,

It has as you all know been the most challenging of years, no one could have possibly imagined when we cancelled last year’s annual parish meeting that a year on we would still be in the middle of a pandemic. It has been a year of highs and lows in all our lives, from not seeing family, working from home and watching the news with the awful daily figures of those that have died and still remain in hospital. But we have seen a country united in looking after each other, and in our small corner of the world from that very first day back in March last year the residents of Colehill pulled together to make sure no one was forgotten and a friendly ear and help for whenever it was needed.

I have been immensely proud to have been the Chair of Colehill Parish Council, whilst I have not been able to do all the things that were planned for the past year I have been able to have been involved in so many projects.

A quick rundown of some of our success stories for this year:-

- Resilience support for the Coronavirus, including a helpline, Facebook group and web site pages to help residents struggling to obtain food & medicines.
- 5 new bus shelters installed along the route of the number 13 bus.
- 13 public benches repaired and painted around the parish.

- 8 Finger Post traffic signs repaired.
- 630 free trees given away to residents, to support our climate emergency action plan, on a very wet day
- Tree survey undertaken for the woodlands we own, to identify any trees requiring work.
- The War memorial was cleaned in time for Remembrance Day.
- A new memorial bench & waste bin were installed opposite the War Memorial.
- Oliver's Park Playground repaired, with new sleeper surrounds installed.
- Colehill Memorial Hall supported with repairs to sewage pump.
- Grants were provided to Colehill Library, Colehill Memorial Hall, Girl Guides, Scouts, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Tourist Information Centre, Sting in the Tail Festival, History Festival, Dial a Ride & Colehill Nursery.
- Funding provided for the number 88 community bus.
- Our web site was re-designed to make easier to use and more accessible for those that are disabled.
- Sadly lockdown restrictions meant that we were unable to have the VE celebration that we had planned, but it didn't stop us putting up bunting around the village to cheer everyone up, that celebration was postponed but the lockdown continued though out the year and into 2021. But I did lay a wreath at our war memorial on VE Day with Andy Urquhart playing the last post and Chris Brown our Town Crier reading out the Cry for Peace. And in the evening we had a very small ceremony out Wimborne ceremony with the mayor of Wimborne, both ceremonies were recorded for the residents to view online. We also observed VJ Day in the same way.
- Improving the ground at Oliver's park where the ground had been compacted, it will be treated and reseeded.
- So although Covid 19 and the lockdowns hampered us we have been a very efficient council for our residents.

Our plans for the next 18 months will need to remain flexible, as we navigate our way out of the pandemic, but we very hopeful to be able to deliver the following...

- Significant improvements at Oliver's Park, following the recent transfer in ownership from Dorset Council to Colehill Parish Council. These are likely to include:
Establishing a management plan for Oliver's Park & Churchmoor Copse.
Installing new fences & gates around the playground area.
Providing additional benches & paths near the Scouts/Girl Guide hut
Undertaking tree works across all our woods including Triangle Woods & Coombes Wood, to make safe any diseased or damaged trees, and other works at Coombes woods.
- Giving out more free trees to residents to plant in their gardens.
- Planting wild flowers at a number of locations around the parish.
- Maintaining the Speed Indicator Device, and exploring any other road safety measures we can progress.

- With agreement from St Michael's church, planting a permanent Christmas Tree.
- Supporting the Colehill Memorial Hall with re-launching the hall when it re-opens and helping to establish a programme of improvements.
- Renovating the Centenary sign opposite the Colehill Co-Op.
- Holding an initial public consultation on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Colehill.

And for the not quite so nice things - unfortunately The Community Governance Review is due this summer, after the last one just six years ago I do hope that they will decide nothing needs to be changed this time round but we shall see. The 5G mast and it's the pending planning application is a great source of concern, but we have conducted a poll on the residents views with the support of our district Councillors Janet Dover and Maria Roe and we will brace ourselves for this application.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, some of us have more time than others to work on projects but we all work well as a team and I would like to say we all bring something to the table but this year it has to be a virtual one as we have not sat around a table since last March!

There are two people though I wish to thank although I think you will all agree with me that Cllr Leslie Gibson has been an absolute star over this last year, he is always two steps ahead of us and the driving force that made our new life of zoom meetings so successful, as well as so many other things, so Thank you Leslie. And to our Clerk Zöe Caddy, through all the madness of the last year you were able to gain your Certificate in Local Council Administration, once again congratulations. Your boundless energy, enthusiasm and professionalism for your position is so gratefully received, we are so lucky to have as our Clerk, so thank you Zöe.

Zoom meetings have transformed the way we meet, let's hope good sense prevails and this option as well as meetings around a table will be a permanent arrangement.

**758.21 PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

Copies of the audited Annual Return and External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion for the year ended 31 March 2019 had been circulated and were noted.

**759.21 PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

Copies of the audited Annual Return and External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion for the year ended 31 March 2020 had been circulated and were noted.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 19:17hrs.

CHAIR