



**Clerk to the Council:**

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## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Being held at Corley Village Hall, Church Lane, CV7 8AZ Corley Village Hall

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 7:45pm

Public : 1

Meeting opened at 7:40pm

### 1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

### 2. Chairman's report on the past year and future plans

We began the year early at the end of April, meeting for one final time in a virtual way before the legislation permitting us to do this expired a few days later. Zoom meetings served a purpose but I personally hope that we never need to use them again.

Council elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May saw us saying goodbye to Glenn Williams, his seat being taken by Cllr Stephen Keogh.

Shortly after the April meeting we were saddened by the news of the death of former chairman and long term councillor Bill Shakespeare. Bill had resigned from the council on health grounds late in 2020 after some 40 years service, achieving fame in November 2020 for being the 2<sup>nd</sup> person in the world to receive a Covid Vaccine.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July I was really pleased to be able to welcome everybody to our first physical meeting in 18 months. I've been very happy with our new venue, which has enabled us to comply with distancing requirements, and for the first time since I became a councillor a venue where it is easy to park and hold uninterrupted meetings – save for the meeting where we shared the hall with the local dog training session because of a booking error, not by our clerk!

I like to think that since normality returned we have achieved a lot this year. We helped a resident with a persistent flooding problem, providing the evidence required to force the city council to take action.

Issues with CCC have persisted, in particular with both Highways and Planning departments. We did manage to get Colin Knight, head of highways, to attend October's meeting. This however left more questions than answers, in particular Mr Knight's belief that the Fillongley Road bridge replacement in Meriden, due to start on 4<sup>th</sup> January, would only involve 4 nights of road closure as opposed to the eight months which had been advertised in the Meriden Mag. Information regarding the Keresley Link Road was extremely sketchy, but fortunately we were introduced to a more junior member of the department who was able to attend two meetings giving us detailed information about both this and the A45 grade separated junction construction. He was also prepared to listen to our concerns.

Cllr Davies should get a mention for her persistence working with Solihull Council and their contractor to ease the burden on our parish road network brought about by the Meriden bridge removal project. We were pleased to welcome a representative from both organisations to our November meeting to discuss matters. In spite of this there have been several attempts by large goods vehicles to navigate unsuitable roads, not always successfully. It was also great to hear at the last meeting that a broken telegraph pole, mentioned at every meeting for at least 12 months, was finally removed.

After years of complaints about the city council's verge mowing either being done at the wrong time of year or not being done, we took the bold step of telling them that we would take responsibility for this in future, at our cost. In spite of the obvious cost saving to the city council it has been a long drawn out process but in January we were able to sign of the Service Level Agreement. We will now be able to improve the service with a tailored cutting schedule, as well as introduction of new wild flower areas.

Another achievement by Cllr Davies was to finally convince someone from highways that Japanese Knotweed did exist on Bridle Brook Lane, their having previously been unable to find it in spite of a picture showing it dwarfing Cllr Parry's moped. Treatment has started at the city council's expense.

Issues with the planning department have persisted. Rob Back, head of planning, has persistently failed to respond to the clerk and issues remain unsolved. We still await his response.

Our work to close Watery Lane to through traffic has continued and is hopefully nearing fruition. We held a productive meeting with a David Robinson from highways where we discussed both this and the ongoing issue of parish roads being repeatedly closed for sporting events. Thanks to Cllr Birdi for facilitating this.

A project which has been several years in discussion, the ANPR CCTV network, began rollout in February this year. We have currently got three working stations, with several more pending. Thanks to Wayne and Rob at Lucas Security who have provided a great service and backup. I hope that this will lead to some prosecutions, and send out the message that Allesley Parish does not welcome Fly Tippers.

Finally it remains for me to thank all councillors and the clerk for their hard work throughout the year.

### **3. Reports from Coventry City Councillors**

#### **Councillor Jandu updated:**

The Coventry City Council has a new Lord Mayor, Councillor Kevin Maton. The New Deputy Lord Mayor is now Councillor Birdi.

The bin lorry dispute is still ongoing. Household bins are being emptied and blue bins are being emptied but the garden waste bins are not being emptied.

### **4. Report of Representatives on Allesley Charities**

No update received.

### **5. Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting May 2021**

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes be approved.

**6. Open Forum discussion on: - Projects, suggestions and ideas for APC for 2022-23**

Bins at Elkin Wood and watery Lane/Green Lane junction