

**Aldham Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**at 7.30pm via zoom**

**Present:** Cllr Jackie Daines (Chairman), Cllr Brenda Brown, & Cllr Andrew D'Angibau.  
The Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw, CBC Dennis Willetts & CBC Lewis Barber  
and no residents.

**Apologies:** CBC Brian Jarvis, Cllr Chris Hall, Cllr Adam Scott & Cllr Tory Cook

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting 2019**

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as a true record.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Jackie Daines

Seconded: Cllr Brenda Brown

**Chairman's Report 2020/2021**

To say the last 12 months or so have been unusual is probably the under-statement of the year and many words have been used to express the difficult and unprecedented times we have been living through.

The one word that comes to mind is "Community" and haven't we seen the best in our wonderful village during the lockdown lives that we have all been living through.

Way back in Lockdown One it was suggested to me that we put together a list of willing volunteers who could and would run errands for those people who were shielding and this I did with the help of several people, including the Grapevine. Within a couple of hours we had a list of 12 or more people who wanted to help and their names and contact numbers were duly printed in the Magazine.

Here in Ford Street, whilst one or two of us had each other's contact numbers, it was suggested by Tory that we put together a Ford Street Support Group and, to date, every house in the street is represented in some way or other, and getting to know each other, either whilst during our Thursday night NHS clapping, or through text messaging has been one of the most wonderful things to have come out of these dark times.

Your Parish Council has still been functioning over the last 12 months, with regular emails going between Grahame and myself and the other Parish Councillors, and with our scheduled meetings taking place via zoom. We have all learnt to position ourselves in front of our screens and most of us have even remembered to turn off "mute" (when prompted) myself included!!

During this pandemic we have been stopped from carrying out our speedwatch sessions but we have circulated questionnaires both here in Ford Street and in other parts of the village around the Church asking for thoughts and suggestions as to how we can slow the traffic down, and the response has been amazing.

Ford Street was covered last summer with the remainder of the village having recently been included. This latter delay was deemed necessary due to the fact the railway bridge at Marks Tey meant we couldn't get a true and clear picture of vehicles coming from that direction, as the numbers crossing through the village were decreased.

All the results have, and will be, sent to Highways for them to peruse and understand what a problem speeding traffic is for those living in Aldham.

Various social events had to be cancelled last year but it is hoped that we can hold some kind of celebratory event later in the year if the Governments roadmap stays on course.

Planning applications have still been coming in, which is encouraging and these have been dealt with in the normal way, together with all the normal day to day workings of the Parish Council.

Our lease on the Millennium Playing Fields runs out in 2023 and will not be renewed. We have, therefore, written to several local landowners asking if they would be willing and able to help us in providing a new playing field area for the village. To date no one has come forward, but we keep trying and are hopeful that we may eventually be able to find a suitable site.

Assuming all the plans for coming out of lockdown run to time, we will be holding our July meeting in the village hall, and can only hope for everyone's sake that June 21<sup>st</sup> will bring some sort of end to the strange times we have been living through.

All that remains for me now is to say a very big thank you to my fellow Parish Councillors, Chris Hall (Vice-Chairman), Andrew D'Angibau, Adam Scott, Tory Cook, Brenda Brown and Ann Honeyball all of who give the village and myself huge support.

Also my personal thanks to our clerk, Grahame Walkingshaw, who keeps us all in order and steers us through the good times and the more turbulent and who makes my job so much easier with his wise advice and support.

### **Finance Report - 2020/ 2021**

The Accounts for 2020/21 are in the process of being compiled before being forwarded to the Internal Auditor on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The accounts will be approved at the Parish Council AGM on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The accounts are exempt from External Auditors, as Parish Council's with revenue of less than 25k are no longer required to have them externally reviewed.

Total balances held by Aldham Parish Council as at 31 March 2021 are £10,141.00

This is slightly up on last year due to the effects of Covid and the restrictions of movement of the community in general.

### **Matters raised by Residents**

None

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....

The meeting closed at 8.03 p.m. p.m.