

Chairman's Report 2022

Another year seems to have passed extremely quickly, although we have not had the overall problems of the past two years of the Pandemic, others still exist as far as the Village Helpline is concerned, although of a different nature now with the increase in energy bills and how this is having an adverse effect on many young families. With the help of Mikki, our Clerk, we successfully applied for a further grant from the IWC which is Government funded. This came in on Christmas eve and was used to help two struggling families, one on New Year's Eve and another two weeks later. Food parcels have also been delivered on a need basis when I learned of families struggling, through sources when the families concerned were too proud to ask for help.

Having lost the shop, we have 'battled' to save the Car park area in front of the proposed new dwellings, as the owner wanted to use this area of Common Land for gardens and parking for the proposed houses. We sought help from various legal sources and joined the Open Spaces Society, which was an excellent decision as their advice has been invaluable. The three houses originally planned for has now been altered to two which will allow parking around the rear of the buildings, which in effect means we retain parking on the Common Land to be used as required.

We managed to erect the Christmas Tree and lights again, thanks to those persons who donated to the purchase of the tree. My grateful thanks also to Keith and Kevin Joyce once again for their assistance in helping to erect the tree and disposing of it after Pete Gosling and I took it down and safely packed away the lights. This year, the Parish Council will need to consider the tree's position as SWAY could well be working on building their new Hub by then in that area, as their planning permission has been granted by the IWC.

The village 'Litter Pick' took place on the 3rd of April in line with similar actions Nationally. My thanks to those Councillors who attended and to our Ward Councillor Claire and her family who volunteered to pick the litter at Blackgang Viewpoint, also to Sally Kenny who walked from up Chale down to the Green and back, picking litter both sides of the road.

It is with much sadness that I need to resign from the Parish Council due to personal medical problems at home, which are taking a great deal of my time. Time, that I have needed over the years, to give as much as I could to help our village. I have served as a councillor since 2012 and as chairman since 2015 and faced the challenges that have beset Chale during that period.

I have received, sent and dealt with over 5000 emails during the past year for PC business which includes the village Helpline.

One of my last pleasurable tasks as chairman, will to be able to present our Chaler of the Year at this Annual Parish Meeting, to a person who has supported me during the times of our 'battle' with the shop. Also, their advice when we needed it. Due to the Pandemic, we have not been able to formally carry out these presentations as is normal at our Annual Parish Meeting. We have carried them out during the past year by surprising the recipients at home with a pre- arrange family meeting for one on his Birthday, and the other at a meeting arranged with our Clerk and I with the recipient to discuss other matters.

I wish my successor's, both in the chairman's role, and the councillor who will replace me, every success. It is vitally important for the village, that both these roles are filled; I can re-call back in 2012, I attended the AGM, for a private reason and was co-opted to fill a vacant councillor role. The rest as they say, is history.

Ron Groves

