

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT 2023

ANOTHER YEAR HAS FLOWN BY. IT WAS GOOD TO GET BACK TO PROPER PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH TO BE FAIR VISITOR ATTENDANCE WAS BETTER UNDER ZOOM.

AS USUAL OUR MAIN FOCUS DURING THE YEAR WAS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAY EQUIPMENT, IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY GETTING REGULAR GRASS CUTTING AT A COMPETITIVE PRICE. DESPITE INCREASED COSTS FOR SERVICES THE PARISH COUNCIL MANAGED TO LIMIT THE PRECEPT INCREASE TO 5% AT THE SAME TIME ADDING TO SINK FUND FOR PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE.

THE PC ALSO TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR SITED AT THE SORREL HORSE.

EARLY LAST YEAR WE MANAGED TO OBTAIN A GRANT OF £2500 FOR AN ADDITIONAL PIECE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, THE GRANT WAS ON A MATCHED FUNDING BASIS SO THE PC NEEDED TO SOURCE THE BALANCE FROM IT'S RESERVES. WE ACQUIRED A TRACTOR FOR YOUNGSTERS WHICH NOW HAS PRIDE OF PLACE IN THE PLAY AREA, WE ACQUIRED A FURTHER £8,000 FROM THE BIG LOTTERY FOR ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO EXISTING EQUIPMENT AND TO PURCHASE SOME EQUIPMENT FOR BIGGER CHILDREN WHICH WE HOPE TO GET THIS YEAR.

IN JUNE 2022 WE ALL CELEBRATED THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II WITH A "STREET PARTY" IN THE CAR PARK OF THE SORREL HORSE, THE PUB PROVIDED A BBQ FOR US AND VILLAGERS PRENTED WITH MULTIPLE SIDE DISHES AND PUDDINGS, THANKS ALSO TO A VERY GENEROUS GRANT FORM OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, JAMES MALLINDER

THE PC HAS SERVED THE YEAR WITH ONE COUNCILLOR SHORT, UNFORTUNATELY ONE OF OUR LONG TERM COUNCILLORS, PAT SOUTHGATE, HAS DECIDED TO RETIRE AND IT IS QUITE A HEAVY BLOW AS PAT HAS VERY SUCCESSFULLY LOOKED AFTER THE PLAY AREA FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL RECRUIT A NEW COUNCILLOR SOON.

THE PC WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE VILLAGE AS BEST WE CAN.

RAY KAY (CHAIRMAN)