

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 1st MARCH 2022

There was no Parish Assembly held last year due to the Pandemic and the Country being in a Lockdown.

This year's Report begins with Chairman Mr. Fred Keer continuing his position as Chairman at the request of the Council. At the 2021 AGM all positions remained the same. His term has been a big learning curve for him, and he has taken on the role admirably. He has kept a tight rein on the budget.

Councillor Mr. Dale Boyce remained Vice- Chairman, he has been a great support for the new Chairman.

The public are invited to all meeting's and are given a chance to bring any matters of concern to the meeting. The Village Cleaner Mr M D Ellington – keen to keep the village clean and reporting any issues that crop up. He is an asset to the Council and the village. On behalf of the Council, he should be thanked. The Cemetery is now maintained by CGM who have after a few teething problems tidied the cemetery and kept it under control- this is funded by the Parish Council. The Council are responsible for maintaining the Infilled Canal that runs between the A1122 and A1101. NCC give a grant of £1,000.00 per annum. The rest is funded by the Parish Council- it costs over £3,000.00 a year to maintain. The Council also pay for the streetlighting and maintenance of the streetlights throughout the village apart from St. Andrews Road and Birdbeck Drive. There are 77 streetlights throughout the village.

The Annual Get Together did not occur – a new strain of Covid arose and people still sceptical at meeting up and many catching Covid.

Council kept the Precept this year as low as was possible it was raised this year by 10% – this was since in years gone by the Precept has been kept exceptionally low and Council and have not raised previously for the rate of inflation. Finances are kept to a minimal and Council considers that all requirements for the Parish are made at any request.

Parish Council are continually being asked for donations and financial help from many organisations, but Council considers that money should be donated to help local causes, one donation this year being Royal British Legion. The Council now meets monthly at Outwell Village Hall along with an Extra ordinary meeting that was called due to a Planning Application. Odd meetings are called via Zoom to discuss matters that need no decisions made. There is no payment for this, Councillor Mrs Jane Sutton provides the licence via her business. The Council buy and lay a Wreath at the Remembrance Service in November, again this was done remotely due to the circumstances, no service was held and very few people could attend.

Training Meetings have been arranged and the new younger Councillors have attended. Planning Policies Change continuously and therefore Councillors attend meetings and training evenings to keep up. The Web Site is updated monthly- Council is open to having other information on there that is useful to the Parishioners

Traffic and Highway matters are problems that are reported every month and the NCC endeavour to resolve these issues. Parish Council this last year have been concentrating on getting backing and finances to gain Safer Crossings in the village on both the A1101 and A1122. This is still ongoing.

Speeding is a major problem throughout the village. There are three major developments proposed in the Village, Parish Council believes that money from these developments should be made available for the Crossings. Highwaymen have visited the village many times with advice from the Council.

There is a Speed Watch team that has not been able to get together as often as would have been liked. The team needs to be re-built. Police do regularly check for speeders in the village.

The Village Hall continues to be a successful amenity in the Village. The committee took the opportunity whilst it was closed to the public to re-decorate, varnish flooring and replace the lighting. The Bookings are now picking up and there are now fundraising events occurring- a successful Halloween Fireworks Evening. Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for running a successful Hall without relying on support from others.

Several enforcement issues continue to make more work for the relevant authorities and Parish Council endeavours to continue to make sure that people are acting in the appropriate manner when planning applications are made.

Since the Cemetery in the village is full, The Council are in the process of discussing whether to try and find appropriate land and finance to provide burial ground for those that would like to remain in the village. The process is going to take a long time due to bureaucracy.

Each meeting representatives from the various village committees report to the Councillors how the local amenities are progressing and Mr Harry Humphrey- Borough Councillor and Mr Chris Crofts Borough Council report each meeting on matters that are of interest to the Council.

County Councillor- Mr Chris Dawson attends when is possible. He does keep the Council informed at all times via Emails if he cannot attend a meeting. He is working hard on supporting the Safer Crossings proposal.

Outwell Parish Council endeavours to support any local projects. Phase 3 of the Tram Project has been completed. An information board like the one in the Health Centre Car Park is erected at the boat basin. A project led by a team of volunteers doing the work and raising funds for the project. Other phases of the project are to be in the Parishes of Emneth and Elm, following the route where the old Trams used to run. This was started at the beginning of 2020; the Pandemic have slowed down progress.

Council considers that any issues raised made by residents can be resolved. They continue to move forward with policies and the changing governing bodies and hopefully as voted by the local people are endeavouring to do what is right for them.

As Clerk I would like to thank all the Councillors for the help and support that is given when requested.