

Chairman's report for West Crewkerne Parish Council

In March 2020 England was starting a year for which would be unlike any other. This was due to the Covid 19 pandemic. By the end of March, we would understand just how we would have to adapt in our required lockdown state. The aim being to limit the spread of the virus and relieve pressure on the NHS, so they could concentrate on caring for those sick with Covid 19.

Being composed of five villages or hamlets West Crewkerne Parish covers a wide rural geographic area, residents within their small communities looked out for and after their neighbours.

The Parish Council had to adapt to new ways of meeting and following government guidance the advice was to hold virtual meetings. We decided to use ZOOM and held our first tentative meeting in July. Although we did encounter some 'teething issues' we did manage to conduct our business. It can be challenging to hold discussions via a virtual medium, body language particularly does play its part in face to face meetings, however by attending virtually all could do so in a safe environment.

As usual highways and its varying issues were discussed at all meetings. Roundham speed reduction remains on our agenda and the Small Improvement Scheme which had been implemented there required follow up monitoring in order to measure any reduction in speed. Two stretches on the B3165 had work undertaken on drainage improvement. The stretch near to Cathole Bridge crossroads has yet to be 'tested' due to the lack of rain since the work took place

With the greater use of websites to report potholes, blocked drains etc. the wider community have been encouraged to make use of these websites.

Public footpaths also have a website to report problems encountered by walkers and it is pleasing to note how quickly issues raised here have resulted in prompt redress.

There have been few planning applications throughout the year.

As we start our 2020-2021-year face to face meetings will resume in July at Clapton and Wayford Village Hall.

Julia Borland