

Chairman's report 2021.

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Monyash Parish Council AGM 2021.

The past year must surely be one of the strangest and most worrying of our recent times. As a Parish Council we have had to conduct all of our business via telephone conversations and emails which hasn't always been ideal. As a village we have seen some businesses suffer although I think we have all secretly enjoyed the peace and quiet which the lockdowns brought with them. Our thoughts are with those within our parish and beyond who have suffered loss due to the Coronavirus and thanks should be said to all of those who helped others in some way. Many helping silently with no recognition.

Two events which stick in my memory are the Remembrance Sunday service and the Christmas Carols, both of which took place on the village green. It was great to see such large numbers of villagers attending, all socially distanced and all enjoying themselves. The carols were a much needed boost to our morale especially with the next lockdown only a few days away.

We said goodbye to one of our Councillors, Ruth Yarwood, and we very much miss her objective and balanced views on Council matters. We welcome Mr Jon White to our Council who is relatively new to the village having only lived here for just over a year. Jon shall be able to join us in person when the covid restrictions are lifted and meetings are able to resume in the village hall in June.

The usual village business carried on without any problems or major issues:- planning matters, maintenance of the village green spaces, maintenance of the village footpaths (of which are funded annually by the grant given by the PDNPA), the grass mowing, bus shelter cleaning, etc.

The village benches were given a facelift and the timber replaced with oak which will weather well and last for many years to come. There surely cannot be many more upgrades needed throughout the village but of course watch this space.

The main contention of the past year has to be the village toilets. After purchasing them from the DDDC for the price of £1, it is becoming increasingly apparent they are costing the Parish Council a lot of money to keep open; the cost of a weekly cleaner, the repairs caused by vandalism as well as buying the needed everyday sundries.

The surrounding area was cleaned up last spring with the trees being pruned and the hard surfaces cleared of years worth of accumulated debris. Doing this made a great visual impact on the area and the donations made by the general public have increased tenfold but it has been agreed by the Parish Council to monitor the costs and to weigh up by the end of this year as to whether it is financially viable to keep them open. We have to take into consideration the amount of our village precept which is spent on them.

I now take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Councillors and especially our Clerk for their work in the past year and look forward to some normality in the next.

Best wishes to you all.

Jo

Chair.