

## **Fransham Parish Council**

### **Chairman's Report for 2021/22**

As a new chair, I would firstly like to thank the clerk and vice-chair for their support and advice which has been invaluable during the year.

Following the relaxation in the Covid restrictions, it has been a more normal year for the council with more face-to-face meetings. We have also been able to enjoy more interaction with public members attending the meetings for various reasons. As a Council we encourage the members of the community we represent to have their say. We are pleased that we have been able to action requests that are within the power of the council, mainly with positive outcomes.

The regular meeting location for the council is the Village Hall, however, with extensive building work being undertaken the hall has not been available for our use. We have been very fortunate in the use of Curds Hall Barn and would like to thank Councillor Sheringham for this.

The council has implemented regular documented checks on the council's assets. This includes, assessing their condition and reporting the results at each meeting. The system has shown its value as it has already highlighted an issue with one of the benches that wasn't reported to the council. Since the report, and with considerable personal effort of a member of the council, the bench is now in great condition. Thank you Councillor Taylor.

The efforts of some of the members of the council putting aside their free time should also be recognised with the procurement, storage and planting of some trees in different locations of the villages mainly in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We also acquired enough plants to repair the damaged hedge next to the bus shelter that was replaced. Thank you to those involved.

The council has nearly completed the necessary steps to achieve acceptance in the Local Quality Council Award Scheme, it is a structure which will assist the council to improve performance and confidence, with policies in place to ensure continuous development and drive a high standard of operation. Once again, this is only being achieved by the dedication of individuals within the council and assisted significantly by the clerk.

The council are continuing to try and reduce the use of smaller roads as unnecessary thoroughfares by HGV's, it is proving to be a challenge, but we will endeavour to improve the safety our villages.

Planning is a constant item on the agenda of the meetings and the last twelve months have proved no different. As a council we are able to add a comment on the application and indeed we often put forward any views presented by either the council or members of the public. The comments are considered in the next stage of the planning application process and we are confident that our comments are considered.

The trod is mentioned at every meeting and although progress with repairs of minor damage and drainage has been made, as a council we are still sure that the overall quality can be improved, we will continue to seek that improvement.

Our remit only goes so far but if we can help, we will. If it is outside the scope of the parish council, we will endeavour to pass on your concern to the correct agency.

Finally, I would like to reinforce the point that we are representatives of the community. We all give freely our time to ensure the community has a voice. It is your views, comments, and questions that we are here to listen to and act upon.

Richard Watts

Chairman