

## **Bartons and Sandford Bulletin.**

**June 2022**

Annex A

### **Chairs Annual Report; May 2021 - May 2022**

This last year we experienced further lockdowns and although restrictions started to ease, Covid 19 was still with us. However, symptoms and their effects were easing and with that came a return to a form of normality for Christmas 2021. In May 2021, we had our first face to face meeting and in June, welcomed the newly elected County Councillor, Andy Graham. The community speed watch was re-instated under the auspices of Dave Jackson who collated traffic information which has fed into the new traffic calming initiative. This led to the forming of a sub-committee to deal with the traffic calming proposals and during August, a village survey was conducted regarding the proposals. I will not elaborate too much will leave the team led by Cllrs Rosemont and Tyers with Steve Ferrelly of Westcote Barton Parish Meeting to tell you themselves. Winter came with some flooding issues that I am pleased to say have been addressed thanks to the landowners along the length of the Dorn who cleared and chopped down overhanging trees. The Council, along with Thames Water fixed drains and dredged the riverbed thus enabling the Dorn to flow faster and deeper. Thanks must go to Cllr Tyers for all his efforts in this. Christmas 2021 started with some magic as the lighting of the tree was accompanied by snow. This along with the Bel Canto choir, Sue Greenway on sax and the pre-school's mulled wine and mince pies gave cheer to the large crowd. We were allowed to be with our families at Christmas and as the Covid restrictions lifted, the need for the volunteers lessened; their efforts throughout the two years of lockdown were invaluable. Most of the last few months have seen disruption by Gigaclear but which means the village now has access to faster broadband. There has been lots of activity around planning which the Council comments on but is not responsible for any final decisions of the Uplands Planning Committee as we are purely advisory. Potholes and tree care is ongoing and the changing of the bins/dog bins brought it's own problems. After a walk round with District Cllr Dave Jackson and Bill and Louise Oddy of OCC who had created a new mapping system for bin locations, some bins were moved, some removed. This proved in some cases to be unworkable so old bins were put back and some new ones moved. The bin outside the shop was unsuitable as a dual purpose bin so an ordinary bin has been reinstated and a large dual purpose one situated further up Worton Rd. In March 2022, we held a collection for the Ukraine crisis in the AM Hall. Many thanks to all those who donated and helped. We took two van and three car loads to a Chipping Norton collection point. We are now looking forward to the Queen's Jubilee and the celebrations that will go with it. To close, I would like to thank Cllr Andy Hinton who was Chair and Vice Chair but has decided to stand down to devote more time to represent the Memorial Hall playing fields. Also to Cllr Peter Meadowcroft who was at the forefront of the speedwatch campaign with his initial measuring of speeds through the village. Peter is standing down after many years as a Councillor. We wish both of you well; you will both be missed. This leaves vacancies on the Council; now is the chance to join us.

Cllr Parry gave the finance report including both internal and external reports. The meeting then moved on to the election of Chair and Vice Chair; Cllr Carter-Windle was again voted in as chair and Cllr Rosemont as vice chair. Cllr Parry will remain as Finance Chair, Cllr Tyers is responsible for highways, pavements and verges. The traffic calming sub-committee Cllr Rosemont, chair, Cllrs McRobbie, and Tyers. Steve Ferrelly and Rupert Massey of Westcote Barton Parish Meeting are also on this committee.

