

## Binton Parish Council Assembly Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Annual Chair's report - Agenda Item 4

It's been another interesting and at the same time alarming year with the tail end of the COVID pandemic and the continuation of the Ukraine hostilities. Hopefully things have returned to a semblance of normal in the UK although industrial action in the public sector continues to be disruptive and potentially harmful to the public at large.

Parish council meetings have continued in person. The Binton WhatsApp group and the Binton Life Facebook page are quite active and running well. Many events have taken place in the last year largely around the reinvigorated Village Hall. We have continued to maintain the Village Green as well as possible and the Council supports our local church with a small maintenance grant and the Village Hall with a growing contribution to the running costs.

The Village Hall Committee which was re-established in November 2021 continues to revitalise the hall with a considerable number of initiatives. The accounts and the Committee's more detailed report on the Village Hall activities follows this report. I would wish to minute my thanks again to Cllr Bishop for her input to management and support of the hall and to Kate Fisher who has managed the accounts for the Hall in the past year. The committee, chaired by Cllr Bishop until now, must be congratulated by the Parish Council on their remarkable efforts to reinvigorate and improve the hall and for their invaluable work and efforts in such a short time. Laura Hamiton is taking over the Chair role on the committee and I am very grateful that she has stepped up to take this on.

All the improvements to the Village Hall in the past year are well covered in the reports from Sarah and Kate but I must mention that the Parish Council has had a full survey of the Hall which was quite encouraging. Of the 4 concerns which needed to be addressed in the first 12 months, only action on some woodworm infestation above the kitchen remains to be done. The roof has been overhauled, the electrics tested and certified and an asbestos register created.

Regarding speeding and traffic volumes, there is a report, as part of the annual meeting, on options for conversion to Solar Power for our two speed warning signs. The new Village Approach Gates at the North and South Village entrances, funded by the WCC councillors grant, have been installed and initially appeared to slow approaching traffic. This impact seems to have lessened though. In addition, work continues for the Shottery Western Relief Road with completion, unfortunately now projected to be August 2024 as the Wildmoor end of the road cannot be started until the B439 end is substantially complete and not be done concurrently due to the potential problems for traffic flows. The impact of this alternative route between the A46 and the B439 will be watched with considerable interest once open. We still await a serious attempt by WCC to improve the surface of Church Bank.

The parish council, in setting the 10% reduced precept for 2023/24, set aside a budget of £2,000 for unspecified village improvements. This will be discussed as part of the following meeting agenda as consideration for the funding for the Solar Conversion of our speed warning signs should externally funded sources be unavailable.

All in all, a busy year with the election and a reduced parish council going forward. My personal thanks to those residents who attended our meetings, the Parish Clerk, my Parish Council colleagues, past and present, the Village Hall committee and our local County and District councillors.

Mike Flaxman  
Chair  
Binton Parish Council