

Binton Parish Council Assembly Tuesday 14th May 2024

Annual Chair's report – Agenda Item 4

It's been yet another interesting and at the same time alarming year with the (hopefully) end of the COVID pandemic and the continuation of the Ukraine hostilities and the start of the Gaza war. Hopefully things have returned to a semblance of normal in the UK although industrial action, which I thought would have finished by now, in the public sector continues to be disruptive and potentially harmful to the public at large. Additionally, we have a general election to look forward to. The parish Council is currently under strength at 6 councillors from a total of 7.

Parish council meetings have continued in person. The Binton WhatsApp group and the Binton Life Facebook page are active and running well. Many events have continued to take place in the last year around the 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 contribution to the running costs.

The re-established Village Hall Committee continues to run the hall successfully with a considerable number of initiatives. The accounts and the Committee's report on the Village Hall activities follows this report. I would wish to minute my thanks again to Laura Hamilton for stepping into the breach so well after the resignations of last year. The committee, chaired by Cllr Finch, must be congratulated by the Parish Council on the continued village activities promoted at the hall.

Regarding speeding and traffic volumes which continue to be a focus for residents, there is a report, as part of the annual meeting which follows, on the acquisition of a third speed warning sign. In addition, work has been completed at the western end of the Shottery Western Relief Road. Completion, unfortunately now projected to be August 2025 as National Highways and Bloor Homes cannot agree on a date to commence work at the Wildmoor end. For reasons not clear to anyone, National Highways had prioritised the construction of a close by roundabout to provide access to the, as yet totally unstarted, industrial estate off the A46 at Drayton Manor Farm. The delayed completion of the by-pass has been taken up with National Highways by our local Councillor and Bloor Homes have now confirmed that a start on the Wildmoor roundabout is likely to be in Summer 2024, This is because there are delays to the approvals for the Drayton Manor Farm access road. WCC have completed their works to improve the surface of Church Bank in Lower Binton.

The parish council, in setting the precept for 2024/25, reversed the 10% reduction of 2023/24 now that inflation appears to be moving in the right direction. We 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 third speed warning sign which will cost £2,760 exc VAT. Current liquidity would cover that added cost.

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

Mike Flaxman
Chair
Binton Parish Council