

Bayford Parish Council. Chairman's Report at March 2021.

The start of this Parish Council year coincided the start of the lockdown. All meeting have thus been via Zoom. This has turned out to be not as bad as I envisaged.

Some Parish Council activities have proceeded as normal. There have been the usual number of planning applications, the trees in Ashdene Road were trimmed and the grass was cut. But some have not taken place. Litter picking will be different this year confined to small groups from the same household. Also Paul's litter picking has been disrupted. The audit was disrupted; there being some confusion over the dates. This was not completed until September. The balance remains healthy.

The item dominating the last six months has been the Village Pond. The drainage pipe, which passes beneath the verge in front of the old vicarage because block and the heavy rains in October caused the level to rise and Ron Turner's overflow to cause considerable damage to his newly laid patio.

Two attempts were made clear the blockage caused by tree root. Finally, a team from Ringway tuned up in March with the right equipment. Within a couple of hours the water was flowing once more.

Several sessions took place to clear and renovate the School Pond, led by George and Bob. The ponds were dredged and the undergrowth cut back. A complete transformation has taken place, returning the ponds to a pleasant and attractive feature of the village. It is also much richer in wildlife. The old entrance gate was re-opened, to allow a one-way system. The gate had to be renovated by Bob. It is not clear if this gate will continue to be used. It was closed many years ago as it was thought to be dangerous for children and parents to exit straight on to the road.

The item has been the sale of the Old Playground. In particular, the Easement, for the laying of utilities beneath the verge, which is owned by the Parish Council. It was known that this land was 'Highway Maintained', and thus, the Parish Council could not prevent passage over the land either on foot or by vehicles. But the laying of water, sewage or electricity cable is subject to negotiation between the owner of the land, The Diocese, and the owner of the verge. This has proved to be a long drawn out process and is even now not quite complete. The Diocese has agreed to pay us for the easement as well as our Legal Expenses.

Jane has again spent considerable amount of time on Traffic and Road Safety.

(to be completed)