

# Cliffe Parish Council

## *Chairman's Report 2021*

I'd like to start the meeting this evening by welcoming everyone, including Parish, District and County Councillors, and especially any members of the public present. It really is nice to actually see real people face to face again after the unprecedented times we have had during the Pandemic.

I mention the pandemic, and I'm sure we are all aware of the many effects this has had upon us all. In the case of the Parish Council, it has meant that since April of last year all meetings have been conducted remotely on Zoom. This has had the follow-on impact of the Annual meetings, which usually occur during May each year, being unable to take place. This Chairman's report therefore covers the last two years since the Annual meeting in May 2019.

The Parish Council undertakes a large number of services within the Parish and I would like to look back at what has been achieved in the last two years through the efforts of all our councillors and members of the public, as well as looking forward to the future with planned projects and objectives.

I have compiled the list of brief highlights below to give an overview of the projects, challenges and achievements the Parish Council has made over the last two years:

- New litter and dog bins have been installed;
- 'Cliffe village walks' programme launched
- Christmas fair held on the village green organised by Cliffe PTA;
- Purchase of village speed sign (with survey facility), including three installation locations (A63 eastbound, A63 westbound & York Road southbound).
- Flagpole erected on the village green, with flags purchased for relevant occasions
- Village website – maintenance and updates
- New (additional) Christmas Tree for the village green
- Maintenance of parish street lighting network
- Maintenance of parish grass cutting (including increases as the areas now being cut have been extended)
- Maintenance of village signage
- Work to the western side of Main Street, including tree felling/trimming, tidying up and re-planting,
- Constant liaison with Highways on issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways
- We have provided funding to:
  - Cliffe VC Primary School
  - Cliffe Pre-School
  - Cliffe Playing Fields Association
  - Cliffe Village Institute

## Cliffe Parish Council

As evidenced from this list of highlights, a significant amount has been achieved over the last couple of years. There are also a number of additional activities which are 'ongoing', and which are mentioned later in this report.

On a positive note we've seen less crime in the Parish recently compared with two years ago. We have a new Police Community officer, whose reports often don't mention Cliffe due to there being no crimes reported. Whilst not claiming credit for this, it is important to note that the Parish Council plays a big part in helping to tackle local crime by facilitating information sharing, making sure the police reports are accurate and representative and in supporting members of the public who are experiencing local issues such as antisocial behaviour.

I would like to thank David Allenby for his services to the Parish Council as he stepped down from his role during this period.

I would like to mention Chris Topping and Amy Wilson as they have stepped down from the Parish Council during this time (tonight being Amy's final meeting as a councillor). They have both given tremendous commitment, support and hard work over a number of years and have served the people of the Parish well, thank you both. An additional thankyou to Chris for his attendance and work with Cliffe Playing Field Association on behalf of the Parish Council;

A special mention must go to my predecessor as Chairman, Mark Topping who stepped down from the Parish Council at the beginning of this year after years of excellent service to the parish. Although as District Councillor it will be nice for him to still attend Parish Council meetings in that capacity. Thankyou Mark for all you have done over the years as both councillor and Chairman;

Thank you to Cllr Howard Cross for his ongoing commitments to the Mary Ward Trust and Cliffe Combined Charities;

Thank you to Cllr Jon Wallinger for maintaining the excellent village website ([www.cliffevillage.com](http://www.cliffevillage.com)) which provides the Parish with news, updates, links, parish council minutes, councillor details etc. it's a fantastic resource and a huge amount of personal effort has gone in to keep this updated to Jon's high standards. Thanks also go to Jon for being the primary force behind the research, promotion and procurement of the village speed sign;

Thank you to Cllr Andrew Holman for his continued work on the Drax and Plasmor steering groups and for supporting Mark and I in his role of Vice-Chairman, and for charring meetings in Mark's absence;

Thanks to Councillor Ralph Woodall for his work with the village flag pole on the village green, always ahead of the game when it comes to having the right flag for the right occasion flying in the correct manner;

Thank you to Cllr Paul Maw for representing the council at Cliffe Village Institute Committee;

## Cliffe Parish Council

I'd like to thank District Cllrs Karl Arthur and Mark Topping and County Councillor Mike Jordan for their hard work and support for our Parish, including providing funding for the bus route project.

Huge thank you to our clerk Julie Leighton Eshelby for all her hard work and dedication to this Parish Council, she's worked incredibly hard through these very challenging and unique times. For myself and Mark before me, we appreciate your knowledge, guidance and help. On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish, thank you Julie.

The next year promises to be as challenging as ever, with a number of new and existing projects and objectives on the list, including (but not limited to):

- Extension of the village green to the village institute (by culverting the ditch),
- Traffic surveying and calming measures (A63 Eastbound/Westbound & York Road Northbound/Southbound),
- Providing a safe means of pedestrian access between Cliffe and Cliffe Common,
- Reviewing & reducing HGV traffic through the village on York Road,
- Reviewing & resolving water / waste / flooding issues throughout the village, especially around the village Institute / Pre-School area,
- Ensuring Highways issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways are maintained,
- Highways – investigate possible provision of passing places on roads to South Duffield,
- Ensuring public footpaths are clear and available to all whilst ensuring they are used properly and responsibly by raising awareness of where the public can and cannot walk, whilst respecting the land, owners and wildlife properly (follow the country code),
- Continue to support groups, organisations and charities in the Parish and those representing the parish,
- Providing a 'little library' for the village green,
- Ensuring there are sufficient general waste and dog waste bins around the parish.
- Maintenance of Broad Lane wood, including new signage and bridge repairs,
- New decorative signage at village entrances.

That concludes the Chairman's report for this year. If I have missed anything or anyone then please accept my apologies. I look forward to working with you all going forwards in the future for the benefit of the Parish and its Parishioners.



Gary Wilson (Chairman, Cliffe Parish Council)  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2021