

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021, UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Emma Bird welcomes everyone to the meeting and opens the meeting with an annual report from the Parish Council:

Engagement

A Parish questionnaire was delivered to every household in the Parish to gauge public opinion. We received a lot of very useful and productive feedback which we are following up on and actioning where applicable.

We are in the process of setting up an autonomous Community Group for the Parish – Cllr Peter Brown is leading this and is putting a lot of time and effort into ensuring this is the way forward for creativity and community events. Contact details are cllr.peter.brown@apmagpc.com if you want to be involved.

Covid Pandemic

To assist with those who impacted by CV-19 (for shopping etc,) we set up a help line and distributed leaflets to advertise. Our thanks go to DG Printers in Measham who printed the leaflets for us. The help line worked really well and led to us compiling a large group of volunteers; our continued heartfelt thanks to those involved.

As more people were unable to leave the village to exercise with their dogs, dog fouling has become quite a problem in recent months. Responding to this, two additional rubbish bins have been installed, and we have placed several new dog waste 'yoga' signs around the Parish.

Possibly linked to the pandemic, crime figures in the village have decreased this year.

Flooding

Flooding remains an issue in the Parish. The Parish Council have paid to have areas of the brook cleared and is looking to help residents with flood problems. Flood equipment for community use has been purchased and these will be installed soon. The Parish Council continue to support the Appleby Magna Flood Group; who along with NWLDC have put a Parish Resilience Plan together. We have also supported groups clearing ditches and understanding how the village drainage system works.

Financial

The budget is looking healthy, but government cut backs, CV-19 and further control of the Precept will mean expenditure will have to be carefully monitored.

Precept – to be £25,000, which includes a Band D Parish Council tax of £47 (not confirmed) per household.

To explain:- **Precept** = the amount raised by Council Tax;

Council Tax (Band D) = the Council Tax per band D property (all property precept valuations are based on Band D - mid range).

Total Budget Requirement = Precept

Street lighting repair costs amounted to £84.46 which relates to the street lights we have to pay for in Appleby Parva.

Village Improvements

The Parish Council now has installed two 3D signs – these have received great reviews.

Four new planters have been installed on the entrances to the village. These are planted out four times a year in accordance with the seasons.

Several work items to the recreation ground have been carried out, a new bench has been placed and best of all a new play ship called The Nautilus. This has been a brilliant addition to our already amazing play area. New fencing will be installed along the section of the field near to the old Pavilion location/near the horse field. Hedging will be planted in front of this to make it more aesthetically pleasing and improve biodiversity in the area.

Various 'street scene' improvements and repairs have been carried out, stiles mended, kissing gates repaired, trees and hedges cut back.

Over 50 items concerning fly tipping, road and pathway problems have been reported to Highways to rectify.

Events through the year

An artwork competition was run in recognition of VE Day and to boost morale in the first lockdown – with prizes going to the winning entries.

Poppies were placed around the Parish for Remembrance Sunday, with the help of Sir John Moore School.

This was the first Christmas we had a village Christmas tree with lights on display. This will now be an annual occurrence and once we have fought CV-19 off we hope to have a celebratory Christmas tree switch on event.

Allotment Society

The Allotment Society is working well and continues to have a waiting list. The site has seen many improvements this year including a composting site and new bird, hedgehog and bat boxes installed. Lots of community projects are taking place.

Appleby Sports & Rec

The Pavilion has been painted to ensure its longevity.

Both the Cricket Club and the Junior Football Club are looking forward to begin training again in accordance with government guidelines.

Other

Various planning applications have been considered and commented on where necessary.

Tetra-Pak recycling initiative advertised.

AMPC is still proactively represented, by the Clerk, at the Mercia Park (J11) liaison meetings.

AMPC website is continually being improved – thanks to Cllr. Sue Mitchell for all her hard work updating and maintaining the site

Priorities for next year

The projects due to be completed next year include the installation of two Speed awareness signs, bulb planting and a permanent heritage board.

Once it is safe to do so we intend to organise some defibrillator training sessions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the existing Councillors, the Clerk and volunteers for their time, enthusiasm and commitment to the village.