

Annual Parish Meeting

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Council Members, the Clerk and the community for the assistance that I have been given in my year as Chair of the Council.

It has been a busy year on a number of fronts.

We started the year with 4 Councillors and no Parish Clerk. The number of Councillors has fluctuated throughout the year with us finally managing to get a full complement this month.

The Councillors being Beccy Murrell, Kathleen Wilkinson, Antony Dawson, Ruth White, Paul Kavanagh, Mark Hoban and myself, Frank Shiers.

Having had 4 Parish Clerks within the previous couple of years, Jennifer Sutcliffe has kindly returned to fulfil the post and has performed wonders in getting us on track.

Socially, a lot has happened, with the Summer Barbeque, the Halloween event (Pumpkin Patch and Houses of Halloween), the Bonfire and in particular the Santa event where 46 children came to visit Santa in the Church Grotto.

Outdoors, we have new Planters, Benches, Bird Boxes an Owl Box and quite a number of fruit trees planted.

We have rejoined the lengthsman scheme and awarded the mowing to Pendle Borough Council. Both these contracts reduce the Parishes maintenance costs.

As far as the mowing is concerned, we have decided to reduce the area of the football pitch being mowed, and are hoping to turn the pitch into a 7 a side area with new goalposts.

There has been lots of tidy up work achieved by quite a number of volunteers in the village, and in particular, I would personally like to thank Carl Ryder and Alison Cook for their efforts.

There was a Community Climate Change Action Day held last May in Barrowford and from this, together with Barley and Roughlee, we have established what we would like to do to make improvements in this area. I'm sure more will come from Beccy and Ruth in this space

We have provided a couple of folders of photographs to the Keeping East Lancashire in the Picture (KELP) Project and expect to be able to view these online within the next month or so. I would encourage anyone with photos of the area or events in the area (both recent and old) to take them along to be digitised so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

This year we joined the Public Rights of Way (PROW) project, to help keep the pathways tidy and accessible and have also seen a number of stiles and gates upgraded by the Pendle Borough Council Countryside Access Volunteers, which again shows the power of volunteer work.

It can be seen that after much delay, quite a number of improvements have been made around the Spenbrook Mill estate, largely through the efforts of the new residents.

We are still keen to lobby for a 20 MPH speed limit through the village, but are currently finding it difficult to extract data from the SPID device that we share with the other local Parish Councils. Once we have done so, we will submit a request to the appropriate authorities.

Finally, it is my hope that people will step forward to ensure that we can continue to arrange interesting Events to bring the community

closer together, and continue to keep the village looking as good as it has recently. Our son's old school motto, translated from the Latin, is "Together we achieve more" and it is something I firmly believe.