

Stradishall Parish Council: 2021/22 Chairman's Report

Since my last report, it has been pleasing to see a return to near normal business, with face-to-face meetings resuming. Whilst there were benefits to the virtual arrangements, that were enforced by the pandemic, the engagement and interaction of physical meetings was missed.

One of the benefits of the Zoom period was the increased involvement of members of the public. Therefore, seeing this trend continue as we return to normal has been a positive legacy of the challenging period we worked through. The numbers attending the meetings, and their input, has been of immense value and is much appreciated. It always assists the council, when reviewing important local matters, to have a true feeling and understanding of the thoughts and concerns of members of the public.

As ever, I would like to thank my co-councillors for their hard work, dedication, and support over the past 12 months. In particular, could I thank Debbie Gates for allowing the meetings to take place at Café 33. This has proven to be an excellent venue at a time where other alternatives to the Shooting Lodge were limited.

I would also like to offer my personal, and I am sure, the entire councils' thanks and appreciation to our Parish Clerk, Joanne Kirk. It has been a very difficult year for Joanne, and this makes her efforts and extremely hard work even more valued by us. It is also a good opportunity to welcome our new, Joint Clerk, Sally Allen to the Stradishall 'team'. Sally will be working closely with Joanne, over the coming months, to assist Joanne with her transition to lessen her workload and we look forward to supporting her in, eventually, taking over as our full-time clerk. We also look forward to offering Joanne a suitable farewell, at the appropriate time, in recognition of her years of work and support in Stradishall.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to our County Councillor, Bobby Bennett, and our District Councillors, Marion Rushbrook, Karen Richardson, and Nick Clarke. All have been regular attendees at our meetings, with valuable input. In particular, their active interest, direct involvement, and dedication on key local matters has been exemplary and, from feedback I have seen, is hugely appreciated by the residents of Stradishall.

Adrian Swift - Chairman