

## FAIRBURN PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2021

The past year has been rather tumultuous with many changes and adaptations to the usual parish council meetings.

The coronavirus pandemic has meant that the council has been able to have only one face-to-face meeting and business had to be conducted via telephone, email, 'teams' and, finally, 'zoom' meetings. The council's thanks go to R Farman for setting up 'teams' meetings and Cllr D Slater for setting up the more successful 'zoom' meetings.'

It is with sadness that I have to report that the long serving parish councilors and chairman, Rita Stephenson, died last year. Her death is a great loss to the council, not only because of her cheerful, lively and outspoken manner but also because of her fund of knowledge about Fairburn and its history. RIP.

The council also lost its then current chairman, A Pound, who moved out of the area. Again, his knowledge of the workings of the District Council from his time as a District Councillor, and his part in obtaining funding to enable the setting up of the Community Café, made a considerable difference to the community.

Fairburn Parish Council is, virtually, a new council. With the exception of myself, who has served for 15 years on the parish council, none of the current members has served for more than two and a half years. There is, currently, a vacancy for one councilor. If anyone is interested please contact the clerk.

Unfortunately the rock fall at the Cragg means that the footway is still closed. However, the parish council was pleased to learn that funding has been allocated to repair the Cragg and tenders for this work have gone out. There is, as yet, no starting date but this will be put in the notice boards and on the website once a start date has been decided. The parish council has worked and co-operated with the various authorities to ensure the minimum of disruption and all possible steps have been taken to alleviate and remedy the situation.

Heavy goods vehicles continue to ignore the 7.5 restriction. One of our new councilors has taken over the task of reporting any infringements and his efforts are proving very effective.

New benches have been installed. The celebration garden has been renovated and re-planted, the ginnel has also been cleared and re-planted and work has been carried out on the trees in the recreation ground.

The council has employed a new contractor for the maintenance of the various grassed areas and also for the maintenance of the celebration garden, the ginnel and the cutting back of hedges at the skate park and around the village.

Several residents are ensuring that litter is being removed around the village and along the road ways. The parish council's heartfelt thanks go to these people who give generously of their time and effort to make Fairburn a more pleasant place. Thank you.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year and hope that the next year will prove to be coronavirus free so that life can return to somewhere near normal.