**Introduction and welcome**

Hello, I’m Phil Collins. A big thank you to you all for coming on this Zoom version of the Annual Parish Meeting.

It has been a difficult year for all of us. It does, though, feel as though there’s some light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully next year we’ll be back to a meeting in the Hall with the bar open beforehand!

The first report is from myself as Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Chairman’s Report**

Through these last 14 months of Covid Ubley has worked well as a community in providing support and a community spirit. I’d like to say a big thank you to Jonathan Longhurst and Wesley Hallam for being our village coordinators during the pandemic.

Given I’ve started with notes of appreciation I would like to thank Wesley for his 12 years as Chair of the Parish Council and many more as a Councillor. He has put in a great service to the village, and we wish him and Jackie well in their new venture.

Thank you too to Colin Moore who also stepped down in the last year as a Councillor.

In their place we have two new Councillors – Gareth Nettleton and Ellie Scourse who are both a great addition to the Council.

Our Clerk resigned in March which has left the Council in the middle of year end and the Annual Audit, but we are lucky to have a locum Clerk, Cathy Parkman, who has stepped in for a couple of months and brings with her 9 years’ experience of being the Clerk in Chew Stoke.

During these challenging times the Parish Council has continued to work, albeit mostly in a virtual way with Zoom meetings and email discussions. We have managed to achieve a few things during the year though.

At last, we have the speed limits in the village set to 20 mph. We first put a proposal to B&NES on this in November 2015 and have submitted several revisions over the last four years as we were regularly turned down. We weren’t prepared to give in and have now achieved what we feel is a big step forward for the safety of the village.

Over the last few years we have been supporting the residents of Innicks Close to get the large green Truespeed cabinet moved as it was an eyesore for the Close. The Parish Council worked with Curo and Truespeed senior management to get it moved from its initial position to a much less intrusive site. Initially Truespeed were not prepared to move it but continued work and the involvement of several of the residents of Innicks Close got results and it was eventually re-sited and the old one removed this March.

We have worked closely with B&NES on Flooding and Drainage throughout the year, with Wesley being particularly active on this. Several steps forward have been made to improve the drainage through the village, although the flooding risk to the properties at the south of Innicks Close still exists.

We have continued to maintain the village environment through the Sweeper, who is now wholly paid for by the Parish Council with B&NES having ceased their support. We have also kept the grass in the Glebe Field, the Churchyard and the Hall Amenity Area cut through a mixture of using a commercial company and the great efforts of Andrew Cole on the Glebe and Colin Moore on the Amenity Area.

We have installed a new gate at the entrance to the Glebe, which not only looks a lots better but is also much easier to use for pedestrians.

We have been active in the Parish Councils Airport Association and are one of now 30 Parishes supporting the objections to the airport expansion and opposing the airport appeal.

I just wanted to put a word in for the Play Area Group that continues to be really active in raising funds and awareness. In the last month they have secured a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery which is fantastic. This together with the around £7,000 raised through their own fundraising gets them close to being able to plan out the first phase of this exciting project.

Finally, on to finance. The next presentation will give the current position of the Council financially but I just wanted to comment on a few of the items that have increased our committed spend over the year.

B&NES now do not support the Sweeper scheme, so the Parish Council had to make the decision whether to continue to employ our sweeper, Ken, from our own funds. We feel it is well worth it and hope that you agree.

The Clerk’s and Sweeper’s pay have both gone up with adjustments in the national hourly rates and we have had to increase the Clerk’s hours from 6 per week to 7 per week because of the increased workload from national legislation and governance and transparency rules etc.

We managed to reduce the costs of ground care through the last year because of the pandemic but we will need to return to full costs over this year. And we have a new website which is excellent but is provided by a company that specialise in Parish Council sites and thus costs more than our previous own home grown one.

Overall, though, we have survived through the year and look forward to continuing to serve the village and the parish in the year to come.

Thank you.