

**Annual Parish Meeting, Malborough  
Parish Council, Chairman's Report  
Cllr John Yeoman**

The aftermath of the pandemic has made this last year a little strange. This time last year we were zooming and could not have proper meetings in April and May.

I must thank Kathy for all her support during the year including getting over Covid herself and still keeping things on track. Also all the councillors for the things they undertake on behalf of the Parish. Ann overseeing the Messenger, John looking after the speedlights and Paul and Kevin coiled springs ready to grit the roads at a moment's notice, with Lucinda and Richard covering safeguarding, defibrillators and toilets! As a Council we must record our appreciation of the work Geoff Allen does in keeping the playground in order. Collecting the rubbish every week and doing all the small repairs necessary.

Janey Syrett has stepped down as a councillor, getting her catering business off the ground has kept her too busy and she felt she could not do the Parish Council justice.

We must also thank our County and District councillors for their help and advice.

The patrons of the Royal Oak can leave safely now that the pothole outside has been filled properly at the fifth attempt. Devon County have also scraped the cycle track back to its original width and replaced some of the fence by the playing field and rehung the road gate. We also concreted Lesley Freeman's entrance, and Devon paid for it to be done - something that should have been done when the cycle track was built.

The tennis courts have been finished with the nice green surface, this time last year the contractor was waiting for the

weather to warm up to be able finish it. It is good to see it used for tennis and for netball. Three new seats have been put in place, one on the cycle track in memory of Andy Warren who worked in the Co-op by his family, one by Whitehall by the Rundle family in memory of Jack and one by the gym to replace one that was vandalised.

The covid has disrupted supplies as we all know but the new Platinum Jubilee playground in Malborough Park is coming on well. The path by the Annexe here will soon start, I am reliably informed.

This past year we have supported the SMASH committee which is a sub-committee of this Council and South Huish. As you all know they had their climate event earlier this month which was successful. A mention of their sub-committee status would have been appreciated.

This year we have had changes to our grass cutting with two new contractors for the playground and graveyard. Also we have finished our first year getting the footpaths trimmed for the County Council for which they pay.

In the summer I put up the signs the School designed for the 20 mph area. They convey a good message, if only everyone took notice. The two trees have been planted in the Village Hall, one for the Duke of Edinburgh and the other for the Platinum Jubilee. We the council, will put plaques on each.

As a council we have dealt with 49 planning applications largely without incident although the processes do seem to get slower with SHDC despite the memorandum of understanding. It is frustrating when we have three that have been ongoing for months and still not resolved. Especially worrying is delaying the decision on the Alston Gate application to reduce the affordable housing on the second development.

This has been a rubbish year as well and I am not going to go there now. Only to say that it was very frustrating after the announcement of the resumption of brown bin collections that many parishioners were left out.

We can look forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. The beacon will be lit on Burleigh Dolts on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Platinum playground will be opened on the Sunday at 12.30. This will be followed by the Village Picnic at 2.30 by the Village Hall and if wet inside. The Village Hall committee will run a bar and tea and coffee will be available.

See you all there.