

2020 AGM Parish Council – *Lilford/Wigsthorpe/Thorpe Achurch*

Chairperson's Report – *Shaun Moffat*

Welcome everyone to the AGM for Lilford cum Wigsthorpe Thorpe Achurch Parish Council.

This evening, history is in the making. I am probably the first Chairman of this PC to present his Annual Report via a Conference Call over the Internet. Will this become the norm in the future and parish councillors will look back in the years to come and laugh how we actually communicated over a table in the same room in the same way as we now tend to laugh at how we use to communicate through letter writing and making phone calls. I hope not – there is a lot to be said for face to face interaction.

I begin my fifth report as Chairman thanking my fellow Councillors for their valuable and significant contributions they have made to this wonderful and historic corner of the County. First of all, a huge thank you to Tim Bird and Tracey Wright from Thorpe. A special mention to Tim (the Vice Chair) for his financial expertise in assisting us with budgets and all things monetary. Also, to Justin Clark from Achurch, to Linda Saunders from Lilford and Terry Barcham from Thorpe. It is also with sadness that we say a fond farewell to Linda who has had to leave us because she is now living and working out of the Parish. A special thanks also to Terry, who has been on the PC for a long number of years and who has made a significant contribution towards Highways & Rights of Way and particularly for his patience recently in dealing with bureaucratic red tape in the positioning of litter bins on the A605. I would also like to welcome our two new co-opted councillors – Marion Healy from Wigsthorpe and Gareth

Hopkinson from Achurch on to the Council. I wish you all the very best.

As usual, we have dealt with planning applications, potholes in the road, rights of way, highways, speed limits, road signs, damaged bridges, overhanging trees and shrubbery, village notice boards, bus services and other transport matters, dilapidated church gates, a defibrillator for Lilford, broadband infrastructure works, grit bins and litter bins. Mainly not headline catching but little wheels in a huge machine. And then there is the budget! Due diligence, careful planning and highly skilful account keeping all required to keep things on track.

I will finish what will be my final report for the time being with two notable areas. Firstly, we currently find ourselves in a unique situation. A situation where everyone has to draw together and take stock of priorities. I am speaking of the health and welfare of everyone, reaching out to help and support those people who are particularly vulnerable in our society and supporting those in our communities, the NHS workers and carers, whose work is so vital in dealing with this truly awful Covid 19. It is only a few days since we have marked the 75th Anniversary of VE Day – ending a similar time in history when an earlier generation of people of this Parish and Country drew together, gave so much and many paid the ultimate sacrifice to make our world a better place for us to live. We look upon that generation as an inspiration and to carry on their beliefs and commitment and work together to defeat the menace of this deadly virus.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our Parish Clerk – Nicki Phillips who once again has done sterling work in dealing with the everyday and every night aspects of the PC – the constant emails from local

government, national government and other bureaucratic bodies, the budget and a list of other aspects which could not even begin to list. Thank you for your expertise, your determination, and your commitment to this Parish Nicki. Your contribution to this area has been immeasurable.

Thank you, Stay Safe and Best Wishes One and All.

Shaun Moffat (Chairman)