



Annual Meeting of the Parish Thursday 26th May 2022 – A Message from the Chair

Dear Parishioners,

The last Annual Meeting of the Parish took place in March 2019, with so much having happened in the meantime.

Who could possibly have imagined then that we would have virtual meetings and Jackie Weaver from the world of clerking would gain celebrity status shining a spotlight on the work of parish councillors and their clerks!

I have recently taken on the role of Chair from Stuart Ray, a hard act to follow as he achieved so much during his term of office. During this time councillors included Jeff Klückers, Alison Krupa and John Kelly, all of whom gave so freely of their time and skills for the benefit of our Parish. We also welcomed Emily Dodd who somehow manages to juggle the roles of councillor and working mum with twins! Throughout Terry Gale has continued to provide stalwart support and, last but not least, Sarah joined as our Clerk in July 2019. A big thank you to councillors past and present but we still need more, so if you are interested in this extremely rewarding role speak to us please!

Working with members of the Parish so much has been possible since March 2019:

- ✓ Signed a 21-year lease for the Recreation Ground
- ✓ Received funding from the British Heart Foundation towards a defibrillator
- ✓ Installed the new playground, driven by the community and underpinned by the wonderful fund-raising efforts of the Clapham Playground Restoration group
- ✓ Purchased two pieces of adult gym equipment
- ✓ Organised three Recreation Ground events (including the upcoming Jubilee celebration) – with special thanks to Yvette Fisher
- ✓ Supported the Clapham Litter Pickers by funding equipment and paying for their insurance
- ✓ Submitted the Parish Design Statement to the South Downs National Park Authority through the dedication of Sally Morris and her working party
- ✓ Renewed our nominations for 'Assets of Community Value'
- ✓ Started to refurbish the park with new gates and fencing and a new circular seat on order
- ✓ Secured the future of the village school by working with parishioners and key stakeholders
- ✓ Continued to look again at the possibility of a 20-mph speed limit for the village
- ✓ Spent most of the 'CIL' money, all of the Pocket Parks Grant and a National Lottery Award with two clean external audits to validate our work.

At the risk of failing to recognise the efforts of the many who work so hard for the Parish, particular mention must go to Yvette who has continued to run The Junction supported by some wonderful volunteers, Siân who set up the litter-picking group and of Boaz who does such an amazing job in keeping Clapham litter free. Not to forget Charlie who mows the Recreation Ground and Karen who keeps our doggy bag dispenser refilled – we thank you all!

Tony Bird Chair to Clapham Parish Council