

Parish Council Chairman Annual Report 2019-2020

Following the elections of May 2019, Whitwick Parish Council warmly welcomed a new cohort of councillors, and elected Lisa Collins as Chairman. This new kept the ambitions, ethos, and vision of the previous alive through; maintaining Parish land and buildings, helping community groups via grants, and representing local views on numerous planning applications. Many councillors attended the consultation on the future of the original Hermitage Leisure Centre site and put forward their views and ideas on what it could be used for, which we have certainly taken into consideration.

During 2019/2020, the members continued the many projects inherited from the previous council, these enterprises ranged from vehicle activated signs and new benches, to the possibility of a Parish flag. Furthermore, continuing with the 'Poppies on Lampposts' and 'The Christmas Lights' schemes highlighted our continued commitment to the character and the beautification of our village.

Projects that came to fruition in 2019/20 were the provisions of new grit bins placed at suitable areas within the village, and new fencing around the Parish Land at Parsonwood Hill. Both projects were met with approval from members of the public.

As Chairman, I, along with councillor Barker, volunteered to plant bulbs upon some of our local green spaces, and, following on from the work of Safety Champion Councillor Woodward, I organised a self-defence lesson lead by Craig Smith from Stealth, a local business specialising in martial arts. In November, I had the honour to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Service at Whitwick's St John the Baptist Church.

The civic year finished with meetings being cancelled due to COVID-19. We have our Parish Manager to thank for the running of the Parish using her delegated powers. With the help of Woodstock in Whitwick, a local organisation, we created a Community Crisis team which began helping members of the parish.

Finally, as chairman, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and all staff for working together during this year and adapting to the new challenges faced.