

## **ANDERTON WITH MARBURY PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2020-21**

It’s been a very strange year to say the least. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government-imposed restrictions, the Parish Council have been forced to hold meetings virtually, instead of face-to-face throughout the year. Whilst this has provided its own challenges, it does seem to have made it easier for Councillors to attend meetings, and this year’s attendance from both Parish and County Councillors has seen an improvement over recent years. That said, the restrictions have meant that the Council hasn’t been able to make as much progress with the various initiatives and projects we had planned.

Also, due to ill-health and ongoing treatment our Chairman, David Bullock, has been forced to take something of a backseat with the day to day running of the Parish Council for portions of the year. However, as a Council we have been able to jointly cover in his absence, and whilst David has stated his intention not to stand as Chairman for the upcoming year, we are glad he plans to continue his role as a valued and longstanding member of the Parish Council.

Whilst we were unable to progress with some of the projects we had planned, Councillor Brewin was successful in gaining funding from Inovyn for the cleaning and repainting of the Dragon Fly Gates at Anderton Nature Park, and this really has brought a new lease of life to the gates. There were two other projects that have moved on significantly during the year. The first is the purchase of two new village planters. These are planned to be placed at either end of the main road through Anderton, and whilst they have been delayed, the hard standings for these have now been completed, and we’re eagerly anticipating the arrival of the planters which we’re sure will add a real splash of colour to the landscape. Also, we have progressed with the joint purchase of a Speed Indicator Device. By sharing the cost with the neighbouring Comberbach Parish Council, we have been able to afford to jointly fund the purchase. We are hoping to make further progress with this over the coming months and use it to effectively help reduce speeding within the village.

With Anderton Memorial Hall having to remain closed for a large proportion of the year, Councillors have worked hard in arranging and carrying out some long overdue maintenance and improvements to the hall. The heating and electrics have been upgraded and renewed, a fresh coat of paint has been applied throughout (special thanks to Councillor Brewin) and a lot of the old and redundant furniture and fittings have been removed and disposed of. Also, Anderton Village Hall managed to take advantage of several COVID-19 related government grants, which we hope will give us a real opportunity to use these funds to further improve and develop the hall over the coming years.

With face-to-face meetings resuming from May 2021, we hope to be able to progress with those projects that had to take a back seat over the last year. Firstly, we hope that we will be able to work to put into place our Parish Plan. With many people being locked down for a significant proportion of the year, we hope the local community have reignited and reconnected with their Parish and we’re hoping to generate a plan that truly is community led and will benefit everybody in Parish. Secondly, we are again actively pursuing CWAC with regards to the S106 monies they are holding which we plan to use to carry out suitable improvements to the highway infrastructure to combat the issue of speeding motorists within the village as well as potential footpath improvements at the Hollows.

Lastly, this year we said goodbye to our longstanding Parish Clerk, Ann Brazier. After many years of excellent service for the Parish Council, Ann made the decision to retire from her role. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ann on behalf of the Parish Council for all her hard work over the years and wish her a happy and relaxing retirement. That does mean that we also are saying welcome to our new Parish Clerk, Nigel Parton, who we are all really looking forward to working with. Nigel brings with him a wealth of experience working in similar roles, and I have no doubt he will be a real asset to the Parish Council.

Rebecca Hynes, Vice Chair  
Anderton with Marbury Parish Council