

The **Annual Parish Meeting** (APM) is held every year normally and like everything else COVID-19 has had its impact on the Parish Council too. Since this meeting gives residents an opportunity to meet their Councillors and to raise anything of concern or interest, we are still conducting this and like previous Council meetings and consultations we are doing this through the zoom conference meeting facilities.

You will be pleased to know that throughout the period the Parish Council has been able to maintain all its statutory requirements despite the restrictions and I would like to share with our residents, my sincere thanks to our clerk Mrs Katrina Baker MBE for her dedication to ensuring that we have received all the information available to discuss the myriad of matters relating to the community during this period.

I would like to say thank you to Councillor Geoff Williams for his support of the Parish Council during his term of office and also welcome Councillors Chloe Rogers and Yvonne Brunger to the Parish Council. It is now close to two years since the previous chairman of the parish council Robert Higginson stood down and I was elected as the chairman, and I have not previously had the opportunity to thank Robert for all his hard work with fellow Councillors and members of the community especially in compiling the Edgmond Neighbourhood Plan during his stewardship of the council. We have received various challenges since this landmark work was completed and I am sure that the Plan will continue to be fit for purpose for a good time to come.

The Council has continued to conduct its routine meetings and committees to ensure the maintenance of people's interests have been supported through planning consultations and the normal accountability of expenditure in the parish.

As residents, you will be aware that the resurfacing work of the Recreation Ground car park in Shrewsbury Road and the dropped kerb that been completed with the financial support of the Bowling Club, Ward Councillor Steve Bentley and the Parish Council towards the project costs of TWC's contractors.

We are still pursuing the installation of speed indicator devices (SID) in and around the village. The SID will be moved on a 3-weekly cycle around the six sites that have been approved by TWC highway's department. This SID project costs have been part funded by the West Mercia Police Crime Commissioners through the road safety initiative schemes fund. The Parish Council continue to work in conjunction with the local neighbourhood policing team and the Parish warden on "quality of life" matters of concern.

There are other things that occur in the Parish where residents help maintaining road verges and shortly the grassed area at the High Street side of Robin Lane will be adopted by the parish council from TWC.

I would like to mention Councillor Gwyn Jones as our representative on the Helicopter Liaison Group. Then Martin Reid and Mrs Keeping of the Bus User Group, for their assistance with the meetings held to find an alternative service to the former Arriva 519 bus service to enable residents to access facilities in Newport and Shrewsbury.

We look forward to working with Claire and the team at St Peters school now that we have reintroduced the regular meetings. Then there are our liaison meetings with Harper Adams University, where I would like to say a big thank to them for their support in our work and for keeping the Parish Gateway planters so colourful.

There has also been over this period the conversion of the telephone box in Stackyard Lane into a community library which is maintained by Michelle Wilson, and the recent creation of the gardening club, which will soon start creating little oases of colour here and there.

Then there are the unseen people who also maintain the rights of way signs across the Parish in addition to the newer dog fouling signs and then checking the MUGA.

I believe that it is right to remind people that Edgmond Parish Council acknowledges that there is a climate emergency and that we are developing ways to reduce the carbon footprint of our community through sustainable developments. For example, we have swapped out virtually all the old sodium street lighting for the more efficient LED lighting units, saving us money over time on this necessary community safety item. Then there is also longer term carbon reduction and heat efficiency measures we request through the planning consultation process, the support of biodiversity development where possible in our green spaces, recycling, re-using and other circular economy initiatives, like reduced single use plastics and ensuring assets of community value like the Lion are kept to encourage and maintain local facilities for the residents to use as the loss of public transport continues to shrink around us living in rural environments.

I, along with Cllr C Edwards and our Clerk, attend the Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership, in support of Telford & Wrekin Council who has also declared to be carbon neutral by 2030. They cascade information that can be useful in reducing carbon footprints, improving knowledge about adaption and the mitigation of climate change and decarbonisation.

In addition to these meetings, I currently hold the Vice Chair role on the Shropshire Association of Local Councils, where I also sit on the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership SCAP Steering Group. SCAP is a county-wide partnership, working with a myriad of other individuals, trusts, businesses, and educational institutions on climate change matters.

It would be unforgivable for me not to speak of those people in the community who supported those amongst us that were vulnerable and needed to be shielded during the Covid-19 period of restrictions. Although we all applied a good neighbourly approach to this, I would like to take the opportunity to thank both Paul and Pam Sahota at the local Post Office and Stores for their support. Lance and Deb Pellet at the Lamb for maintaining their services for the community and also the countless other people for their community support too. Finally, to thank Councillor Yvonne Brunger for her dedication and support for those vulnerable and alone during lockdown by making home deliveries of food, medicine and other miscellaneous items needed.

I would like to thank Claire Medhurst, the new head teacher for St Peter's School and the staff for the support that they have given to the children both in school and those that have been home schooled through periodic virtual classroom lessons too.

I am sure that everyone will have a story to relate in time to come about the unusual circumstances of the past year, furlough, working from home, home schooling these changes we have experienced, but it is reassuring to know that the community of Edgmond has pulled through and we can continue with our lives in this post pandemic world we are adapting to.

Public scrutiny is always welcomed, and we shall endeavour to continue to engage with all our residents to understand local needs and their concerns. To this aim we are still looking for volunteers to come forward to be a Councillor to help with this role in the community.

I have reached the conclusion of this report, I have the duty to present it to the Parish along with financial report of the Parish Council, which is still subject to audit. The Annual Accounts (AGAR) will be made available following the completion of the Annual Audit by PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditors appointed by the Audit Commission, and these will be available for people to see on the Parish website.

I wish everyone a progressively less restrictive year than we have experienced recently and hope that people are able to enjoy their lives and lifestyles in our community.

Allan Wilson
Chairman of Edgmond Parish Council