

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

I would like to thank my fellow parish councillors for all their hard work on behalf of the Parish Council during the last year.

The parish gradually began to return to normality as we all learnt to live with Covid.

A total of 6 parish council meetings were held, and I am delighted to say all in person. The parish council has continued to embrace the digital world. The village website, and Slack. portal have become our default method of communicating quickly within the parish. I look forward to growing the numbers of "listeners" to our portals in the forthcoming year.

The Broadband working party, with Councillor Jason Bridgen, representing the Parish Council, continues to fight to acquire FTTP for the village. This is without doubt a mammoth challenge. Fraught with politics from Openreach, local government and Westminster. The work carried out by the team is extremely important to the long-term health of the community. Should the parish be successful in acquiring fast broadband life will dramatically improve for all. I would like to thank them for their commitment to this hard and frustrating task.

Together with Cheriton we have continued to lobby The National Trust to clear the source of the River Itchen. Sadly, this has been met with a firm refusal.

Charlie Flint who currently Farms the National Trust land bordering our parish retires in September 2022, and the Trust plan to no longer farm the land. We await with interest to hear what their plans are.

Hampshire Highways completed the safety improvements to the A272, and early signs indicate that the speed indicators are having a positive effect. Although there is much more work to do.

We are now two years into operating the Parish Lengthsman scheme under the leadership of Councillor Parry. Improvements have been made to ditches and cutting of footpaths.

The Fete committees' seat was installed on the village green and has been much admired and used by walkers resting.

Kilmeston held an election for its parish councillors. Achieving an astonishing turn out of over 60% demonstrating how involved the parish is in local concerns. Councillors are elected for a four-year term.

I would like to welcome Hannah Beckett-Pratt to the council.

I would like to thank members of the city council for their attendance and help over the last year.

Finally, thank you to the members of the public who have attended our meetings, and for expressing their points of view. I hope that we have listened and gone some way to achieving the wishes of the majority.