**Chairman’s Report Year May 2021 –May 2022**

In my 5th Year as chairman it is so good to see and read about so many of the active groups we have in this community and how they have all come together to support each other and the village, along with the wider community.

It has been a refreshing change to be able to hold face to face parish meetings , and to see the public back in the village hall for our monthly Parish council meeting. The meeting is a valuable forum to help in setting the direction the Parish Council should take, this is all your village, and we need your suggestions of how it should develop.

This year saw the completion of the village plan which has provided a valuable document to show how people of the parish would like the village to develop and what facilities and housing may be required. My thanks go to Michael Lane and his team who have worked so hard on this project and have produced a document that we can all be proud of.

Speeding through the village continues to be a major concern to most residents, and the council continues to look at ways of reducing speeding cars, within the confines of the budget we receive. More volunteers are needed to help with speed watch and we would like everyone who is effected by this to come and help with speed watch and ideas of how we can improve the situation.

The second major concern is dog fouling and the PC continues to try and educate people on the harm this can cause, both physically and the anti-social effect it has to others.

This year also saw the official opening of the North Marston Park by MP Greg Smith. This was another example of what can be achieved when a group of local people work together to raise funds and manage a project. My Thanks go to Katherine du Plessis for leading this team and organising the opening of the park, I am sure you will all agree it’s a fantastic facility and has become the envy of many neighbouring parishes.

The council increased the precept slightly to £30.000. The precept has been spent mostly on the general upkeep of the village including grass cutting, street lighting and light maintenance / replacement. You should now see that all the lights in the village have now been replaced or a plan is in place to replace the last few.

In 2021-2022 the income to the parish was £66,833 with outgoings of £60,725.

The council reserves sit at £89,447 of which £14,700 is charitable donations to the sports field for the upcoming drainage projects and £13,000 is reserved for repair work on the village hall.

Unfortunately, this year saw the resignation of our parish clerk Rachael Callander who has left us to pursue new challenges. Rachael had been instrumental in so many projects behind the scenes, in particular the refurbishment of the village hall and more higher profile ones such as the continuation of the village magazine, to name just a few.

I and the Parish council will miss Rachael and everything she did for the village in her time as Clerk.

We have finally managed to find someone to take up the challenge and direct the parish council. Jan Rolf who was a parish councillor, but had to step down due to work commitments, has now re-joined the Parish Council as Clerk. Jan has a great deal of experience with local councils and local knowledge as a North Marston resident, I am sure she will prove a valuable asset to the village.

There is a spare space on the Parish council, and I would welcome with open arms anyone who would like to join us, especially anyone who would be willing to step into the shoes of the Chairman.

Unfortunately, we have had to end the village magazine this year, due to the high printing cost and low uptake of the magazine. We have however put the information online and all important events and now shared on the community group face book page with thanks to John Spargo.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time, to help support others in the village or to help with village projects. It is not many villages that can boast to have such amazing sporting and recreational facilities, a shop, two meeting halls, a vibrant church and a thriving village community. Thank you on behalf of the whole parish council

Thank you for your hard work and commitment.