

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS April 2021

Last year, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we did not have an Annual Meeting of the Parishioners as general meetings were prohibited at that time. Since then, we have managed to move our meetings onto a virtual platform and continue the Parish business by Zoom.

Early in 2020, our long-standing Parish Clerk, Bernard Champness, retired. We appreciate all the hard work he did for the Parish and presented him (though sadly not in person) with engraved glass and a bottle of his favourite tippie. Our part-time assistant clerk, Debbie Holmes, kindly filled the gap for us until we could advertise for and interview a replacement. Many thanks to Debbie, who has now moved on, and we wish her well in her new career.

In October, we were lucky enough to appoint Sylvia Radouani, who had previously worked with Peterborough City Council, to the position of Parish Clerk. Sylvia has worked tirelessly since her appointment to bring all our paperwork up-to-date and make connections within the community.

We have had many problems due to the pandemic – not the least of which was closing the Pyramid Community Centre. We will re-open as soon as restrictions allow and have formulated risk assessments for the Centre and the Parish Office. Sadly, the Bretton Festival has been cancelled for the second year – although we plan to bring a Virtual Festival online. Please check the Parish Council website and social media for details – we hope to have a Bretton's Got Talent competition, so start rehearsing!

Once Government approved the Zoom meetings, we have continued with the Planning & Environment Committee (currently looking at parking issues in Bretton), the Finance Committee and the General Purposes Committee.

Our two lengthsman have continued to work after the first shutdown during the past year, cleaning the litter from north and south Bretton. They also report fly-tipping to the Clerk, who passes the reports on to PCC for clearance. Unfortunately, we had to suspend the Bulky Waste collections, but now I am glad to report that it has now been reinstated and will commence on 8th May 2021. Please check on the website for details.

We have continued to produce the Bretton Gazette, which is delivered to every home in Bretton. Inside there is an array of informative information, new incentives, and opportunities for the community. If you would like to place an advertisement in the Gazette, we charge very reasonable rates for local businesses. Therefore, if you are interested or require further information, please call the Parish Clerk.

We have purchased two new defibrillator units, which will be situated at the Alpha Centre at Heltwate and Tyesdale. These should be in place very shortly and join the unit already in place at the Pyramid Community Centre.

We have also been happy to give some financial support to Tom Brown, who has been gardening for Bretton. He has created a memorial for Captain Tom Moore in the gardens of the Pyramid Community Centre. He has planted an array of stunning plants in other areas within our community.

Tom was recently recognised for his contribution to the community by Peterborough City Council's Good Citizen Award earlier this year.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to get back to near normal this summer and continue to work for the people of Bretton. Please remember that your Parish Councillors are volunteers and give their time and efforts to improve our community entirely free.

If you think you would like to become a Parish Councillor and help us with our work, please contact the Clerk for further details.

Thank you

Catherine Lee

Chair of Bretton Parish Council