



# **BROADWINDSOR GROUP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**24 MAY 2022**

## **REPORTS**

### **Annual Report of the Parish Council**

#### **Councillor Rowland Hibbard**

Good evening and welcome to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting, at last, we are meeting in person again and it is good to see everybody and thank you for coming this evening. The COVID pandemic has had an enormous impact within our community but we are seeing the dark cloud it brought with it starting to disappear, but we must remain vigilant and take precautions when advised. The Parish Council has held many meetings online and we have lobbied to allow local councils the flexibility to continue with both formats or hybrid meetings, which hopefully would allow greater engagement and participation. Government has to date not changed their position and legislation still only allows in-person meetings. We are looking at live streaming in-person meetings later in the year. We are now able to hold face to face meetings but will continue to monitor the situation with regards to COVID levels and make decisions whether to hold online meetings when the COVID levels rise significantly, my thanks to Councillor Hughes for monitoring the COVID situation in the Parish.

It was with great sadness that we lost three of our councillors, Brian Hedditch, Lloyd Curtis and David Leader, all of whom will be sadly missed not only by their families but by all on the Council, Lloyd will be missed for his deep knowledge of the Parish and his infectious personality and Brian for his long service to the Parish, David for his energies and drive in bringing our Parish together with the development of the MUGA, his involvement with Comrades Hall and the upgrades that have been put in place to modernise the hall and the reopening of the White Lion. His total commitment to the Community Land Trust in the planning and development of the site in Netherhay Lane of fifteen affordable houses along with many members of the CLT committee is certainly in my opinion a landmark achievement for the Parish and it was great that David was able to see the project actually make a start, my thanks to all members of the CLT committee who have worked so tirelessly with David to get it off the ground. I would at this point thank those who have stepped in to fill the many roles David was involved in.

We welcome our new Councillors, Stuart Curtis, Sonia Raymond and Rick Dyke who have joined us and have added to the great mix of Councillors that we have, all who have their own particular skills and ambitions for the Parish be it wild verges or footpaths or support of village halls, allotments, the Community Shop, Cricket Club and the White Lion and special thanks to all who have given of their time and skills to get the Pub back in action!!

One special day which I will mention was the day the village gathered together on Lewesdon Hill in March to commemorate the Life of Jean De Cloedt who was tragically killed during the Second World War when his Spitfire crashed in bad weather on the Hill, this was a very moving occasion made more special as the Great Niece of the pilot was able to attend the service, a big thanks to everyone who attended and Councillor Frampton who made this his lockdown therapy.

The Parish Council still gives financial support to all our Halls and the Shop and have also given support to the White Lion and the Bridport CAB and Life Education Wessex and have to date this year awarded £19,023.00. The Welcome Pack which has been produced by Councillors and which is being updated has had good feedback from those who have received one. Despite all the excellent work put in by the Council to keep the Parish safe and tidy we are still having vandals in four wheel drive vehicles using Common Water Lane and continuing to damage the verges. We are trying to resolve this issue but don't seem to get any positive help either from the Police or Dorset Council, but we keep badgering our Dorset Councillor to get this matter sorted. We have purchased two Speed Indicator Devices for Broadwindsor and Drimpton, these should be operational from the end of the month, thanks to the Speed Watch group who will be operating them. The Council has adopted the phone boxes in Drimpton and Broadwindsor and financially supported their restoration and have continued to support the restoration of the fingerpost signs across the Grouped Parish area which are looking so much better.

The Community Pub project was initially supported by the Parish Council and through fantastic public support was able to reach its target of £35000.00 to see this idea become a reality my thanks to all who gave of their time, money and skills to get it to where it is today another brilliant community asset. Planning applications, speed limits and dog fouling have generated most concerns and comments throughout the year, why we have to continue to discuss dog fouling when the Council have put in dog bins is a mystery to me but I hope that those who are too lazy to pick up the excrement from their dogs in and around the Village and in farmers' fields realise the harm that can come from animals and children coming into contact with it. If anyone witnesses owners not picking up, please if possible let us know we need to stamp out this disgusting practise!!

Our website and Facebook pages have continued to offer up to date local, county, and national information of specific interest to the Grouped Parish area. Our Facebook page especially has an excellent reach and engagement.

In summing up this evening you can see that Broadwindsor Group Parish Council is a forward thinking and extremely proactive Council which is not just down to the Councillors but to the members of the public who give their support to committees when needed, so my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your hard work during the year. My final thanks go to our clerk Helen whose continued hard work and dedication keep the Council running smoothly and my role as Chairman would have been so much harder without her invaluable help and I am sure that all members of the Council will agree with me.

### **Dorset Council**

#### **Councillor Simon Christopher**

I firstly report that the application known as land south of Fullers will be considered by a Dorset Council Planning Committee. I continue my endeavours to improve pedestrian safety whether through payments or extending 20 miles per hour speed limit areas. I note with interest that the desire of HMG to help those in smaller properties to receive £150 payments to house holders via local authorities and this appears to be working. The ever-tightening cost of living caused largely by the war in Ukraine and long-term consequences of the COVID pandemic, and inflationary pressures is fuelling the likelihood of more interest rate rises this year. This will clearly continue to impact on Marshwood Vale residents and Dorset Council. There are great concerns about the UK's energy price cap which climbed in April by 54 per cent. Clearly there are great concerns in rural areas on the future of Government decision making. This is most acute where there is for instance no mains gas nor the money, nor the desire to move to heat pumps. Returning to the question of interest rates and indeed mortgage rates there is also concern about what happens when fixed rate deals end, variable rates have risen. The most acute cases are where residents are older but still have mortgages and borrowers are seen as a greater risk by lenders.

I will comment on the transition away from Farming subsidies and the basic payment scheme later, at this stage I would comment as follows: I would like after three years to comment on Team Christopher, as I like to call it, involvement, with the Farming Community Network. Last Friday when I was meeting the Environment Minister, Una attended a meeting organised by the Farming Community Network in circumstances where you can not be in two places at one time. As many of you know I have previous involvement with the Farming Community Involvement and have assisted farmers in tragic circumstances whether involving welfare issues, tax credits, farming after the suicide of a partner or having received a notice to quit and animal welfare issues etc. Dorset Farm Community Network is aided by Neil Martin of Dorset Council Trading Standards (Also a Director of Dorset County Show) and local vet. It is well worth our support. For your information The Farming Community Network telephone number is 03000 111 999. The Farming Community Network offers the opportunity to talk to a sympathetic person who truly understands farmers and rural life.

By way of contrast RABI, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution offers financial support practice care and guidance to farming people of all ages, including farmers, farm workers and dependents 0808 281 9490. I am pleased to report that the RPA are to make interim payments in respect of the basic payment this summer. I have been invited to meet with Rt Hon George Eustace MP Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs next month.

Nutrient neutrality and implications for development: I recently received the following from the Head of Planning at Dorset Council.

Dear Councillor,

You may be aware that Natural England has recently issued new advice to local planning authorities whose areas include catchments for freshwater/estuarine habitats where development proposals have the potential to affect water quality as a consequence of adverse nutrient impacts. Nutrient deposition can arise from agriculture but also from the treatment and disposal of wastewater arising from residential development. Dorset Council is affected by 5 catchments in total:

- Poole Harbour catchment
- Somerset Levels and Moors
- River Avon
- Chesil and The Fleet
- River Axe

Dorset Council has been working with Natural England and other partners in developing nutrient mitigation strategies for affected catchments, but where development proposals in affected catchments are unable to demonstrate that they are able to mitigate adverse effects, planning permission will be refused. Further clarification is being sought from Natural England on various details, in particular around the suitability of current nutrient mitigation strategies in the Poole Harbour catchment for dealing with the impact of phosphorus. In the meantime, planning permission will only be granted if Dorset Council can be satisfied that it will not lead to an adverse effect upon the integrity of a protected habitat as a consequence of the impact of nutrient enrichment upon water quality.

My report coincides with the third anniversary of the formation of Dorset Council and the declaration of the climate and ecological emergency. I report as below:

### **How well are we addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency?**

Posted on How well are we addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency?

A recently published progress report has revealed how well Dorset Council is performing in its efforts to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE). Dorset Council declared a CEE in May 2019 and, following extensive development and consultation, their Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) and action plan was adopted by Full Council last July, with an agreement to report progress twice a year.

The CEES is a long-term strategy which sets out 41 objectives under nine topic headings. It sets carbon targets and identifies key areas where the council can both reduce its own carbon footprint and support the whole of Dorset to become carbon neutral. Key headlines from the progress report include (but are not limited to): –

- Significant budget commitment by Dorset Council, with £10 million capital climate change budget and over £50 million in external funding to support activities that address the CEE.
- Over 40 solar panel arrays installed on schools and other council-owned buildings, with an additional 50 arrays due for installation shortly.
- Estimated investment through the Dorset County Pension Fund in high carbon activities reduced from £128 million to £41 million since 2019 (1.2% of total investment).
- Low Carbon Dorset programme awarded £5.4 million grants to businesses wishing to go greener. Projects should lead to £16.1m of investment in low-carbon projects in Dorset and an annual reduction of 9,400 tonnes of carbon.
- 60% waste recycling achieved. Dorset Council is now the eighth best performing council in England and the third best unitary council in England for recycling and composting.
- Pro-active lobbying of Government for powers and funding to support strategy delivery through direct representation to government, letters to, and lobbying of, MPs and representation through national groups.
- Majority of streetlights upgraded to efficient lighting.
- Strategy under development to shift Council vehicle fleet away from use of fossil fuels, with trials of electric vehicles (e.g., road sweepers and refuse vehicles) and Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel for use in heavy vehicles.
- Use of primary highway surfacing material reduced by 30%, replaced with recycled products. 15% of surfacing materials made of material recovered from Dorset's former roads.
- Expanded our Cut and Collect practices on roadside verges to cover more areas of Dorset. Space management for biodiversity benefit increased by 350km<sup>2</sup>.
- 42 electric vehicle charging sockets/bays installed at 21 locations. Next phase to deliver 51 more underway.
- Healthy Homes Dorset supported over 130 homes with energy efficiency and improvement measures, with many more receiving Green Homes Grants to install insulation, ventilation, and solar panels.
- Dorset Green H<sub>2</sub> project to install 5MW solar farm and electrolyser to produce green hydrogen.

The progress report outlines the Council's key progress, but also includes the next steps to be taken under each of the nine topics. The full progress report can be found on the Dorset Council website. Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said:

"It's important to make sure everyone is kept up to date with how we're getting on delivering our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and action plan, and I'm especially pleased that Dorset residents will be able to see that these works are gaining real momentum now. As a local authority, we must deal with many competing priorities, but our commitment to delivering on our CEES ambitions remains steadfast. Much has already been delivered, both by Dorset Council directly but also working with a multitude of partners. There is no one single point of success or failure defining whether we will be successful; the journey to a decarbonised Dorset will involve us all. We will continue to work towards our goal to become a carbon-neutral council and putting in place the necessary actions and partnerships to accelerate the journey towards a carbon neutral Dorset. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with all interested parties what their views are on concrete steps that can realistically help us accelerate our ambitions, balancing the social and economic needs of all residents, especially the most vulnerable. I am absolutely committed to making Dorset the best in class, and I know that we have all of the ingenuity, passion and capabilities to achieve this."

On a personal note and having worked with various past editors of the Ecologist magazine I must stress how serious agenda items climate and ecological pressures are for me.

### **Dorset Council awards £90,000 to support food schemes in the county**

Posted on May 19, 2022 No Comments on Dorset Council awards £90,000 to support food schemes in the county

In a bid to support residents with rising living costs, Dorset Council has awarded £90K from the Government's 2021 Household Support Fund to various food schemes over the last five months. 20 food projects – ranging from foodbanks to social supermarkets – received dedicated funding as part of the Governments' plan to help those with limited disposable income across the winter period. The funding has enabled community groups and charities to continue to supply food and essential items to residents. The Household Support Fund (HSF) was launched in December last year to help residents, including vulnerable families, with the cost of food, heating and other essentials across the winter months from central government funding and has recently been extended to 30 September. Chris Lee, Chair of Trustees from Verwood Foodbank, said:

“The Verwood food bank provides emergency food to those in need and signposts clients to organisations that can help them out of poverty. The pandemic and the cost of living crisis continue to create a huge level of demand for our help. Help from Dorset Council through the Household support fund has helped us to support many of those in need.”

Dr Neil Hardisty, Director of The Nest Weymouth, said:

“The Household Support Fund is proving a real blessing to both The Westham Nest and the new Littlemoor Nest. It means that we are not having to search out grants to ensure that our members are able to access a good selection of nutritious foods. As the cost-of-living crisis starts to bite we are seeing more people coming through our doors seeking help and support.”

Cllr Laura Miller, Cabinet member for Culture, Communities and Customer Services, said:

“We know that a significant number of households are experiencing hardship due to rise in basic living costs.

“The Household Support Fund is there to provide rapid short-term financial support to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food, energy, water bills, and other related essentials.

“I am really pleased we’ve been able to help so many local people over the winter months and I would urge any individual, or household to check out what help is available if they are experiencing financial hardship.”

More information is available for residents who struggle with access to food on the council website. For more information about the Household Support Fund, check out details online. Further announcements on the 2022 Household Support Fund will be available from 1 June.

Since we last met, I have had meeting with various Members of Parliament at various locations across Dorset and Devon: Simon Hoare MP, Luke Hall, MP, Rt Hon Theresa Coffey MP, Ian Liddell Grainger MP, Felicity Buchan MP, Rebecca Pow MP and Chris Loder MP virtual meeting. Clearly the meeting with Rebecca Pow the Environment Minister was particularly interesting as we move to Environmental Land Management Scheme. ELM aims to reward environmental activity. While the first tier of this the sustainable farming incentive should be available to all farmers, there is some discussion whether two of the other components of ELMs create problems for the tenanted sector. The Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery elements of ELM have at least a partial reliance on taking land out of agricultural production and use it to enhance nature, the environment and biodiversity instead. Clearly tenants will look at their own position, whether Agricultural Holdings Act Tenancy (AHA or

Farm Business Tenancy. Similarly, owner occupiers and landlords should take professional advice in respect of the possible loss of Capital Taxes reliefs. All of this is taking place at a time when food security is a genuine concern and when we are living through price inflation unprecedented in recent times.

### **Dorset Deserves Better Campaign**

#### **Giles Watts**

Thank you for inviting me, I represent Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN), a group set up two years ago following the declaration of a climate emergency by Dorset Council. Although there were many local groups, it was felt important that there should be a group who looked at the wider scene as many problems were as a result of national politics. In January last year Dorset Council brought out their draft Local Plan, having looked at it in detail it was fair to say that the first impression was one of disappointment. The Local Plan is an extremely important document, one which will define what is going to happen in the future to the county and as such should be taken seriously. The draft document lacked both vision and creativity and no forward looking on a number of different fronts. It was therefore decided to set up a group - Dorset Deserves Better. The group asked Dorset Council to think again about certain elements of the Plan, there were three main parts of the Plan that we did not agree with. Firstly, the sheer volume of houses being proposed, no one was against houses to support communities, but this was a plan which would see the number of historic creative buildings double in Dorset, 80% of which were planned for greenfield land which would and is still capable of damaging the environment historic spaces and geographies. The Plan seemed to be chasing national targets without taking into account the geography of the local area and what communities need. The second part relates to affordable and social housing, there is very little in the Plan to address the large number of families on the social housing register, and places like Broadwindsor where local people are being priced out of the market place and unable to remain in their own communities. There needs to be a greater inclusion of real affordable housing and social housing and more community land trusts. The third aspect is about climate emergency, there is very little in the Plan to address the fundamental issues concerning how to convert to green energy, set high green standards for buildings how to make sure green spaces, protect rivers and ecological corridors, reduce sewerage and many issues to try and address the situation we are in. An open letter was sent to the Leader of the Council at Dorset Council setting out our concerns and also what we felt positive about, aspects we could do better, the real opportunities to do something very positive for Dorset. Following this, there was some dialogue with Councillors and the Leader who has not agreed to meet with us yet, dialogue has been through email. We have also been working hard to get the support of many organisations as possible and so far have the support of forty ecological climate organisations and twenty-one parish and town councils and would be delighted if Broadwindsor also joined us. These groups and organisations represents 85,000 people, 20% of the total population of Dorset, so we feel now that we have got a reasonable mandate to go to Dorset Council and say that we think that they can do better.



## **Broadwindsor School**

### **Jill Mohiki**

The school continues to be popular with a full role of 104 pupils and new pupils enrolled for the September term into the Early Years Reception class. Attendance for the year stands at 92.5% and as ever the school aims for 100% reminding parents to try and avoid taking holidays during school time. There have been some staffing changes across the year with the most recent being the current Headteacher, Mr Philip Smith, soon to leave us and Mr Jean-Paul Draper appointed after a rigorous process as his replacement to start in September. The school is fortunate in that Mr Draper has been the Year 5/6 teacher for the last 3 years so knows the school and local community well. A number of recent improvements to the fabric of the school, led by Mr Smith, have taken place. The school now benefits from new decoration inside the school, including new carpets and an enhanced reception area. In addition, a covered outdoor classroom has been installed near the Forest school area providing extra space for a range of activities including last year's leavers assembly. New electric gates are now in place to increase security. More trees have been planted at the back of the field area as part of the school sustainability programme, in addition solar panels have been installed on the roof. Mr Smith's energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed as will his participation in many of the extracurricular activities that now take place in the school to enrich the children's learning experience. A recent addition of a film club with popcorn jointly run with the PTA is proving very popular and the MUGA continues to be well used. Pupils helped to run a recent cake sale which was enjoyed by all and helped raise money for the Ukraine appeal. The school has an active and supportive group of Governors who as well as meeting monthly, are regularly in school carrying out various strategic responsibilities associated with their individual roles. This year the SAT tests took place with extra breakfast being provided for the Year 6 pupils to aid concentration. The school continues to fulfil its aim of learning and growing together with a full programme of activities for the summer term including class street parties for the jubilee with decorative bunting made by the children.

## **Blackdown Village Hall**

### **Councillor Sonia Raymond**

Like many other halls in county, Blackdown Village Hall has seen just how damaging the pandemic has been with many events cancelled due to COVID, it was not possible to hold the annual harvest supper, snow and beetle drives but the annual village flower show in September was able to take place. There are two regular hirings, the WI and the Axe Valley Dog Club. Work started last week to repair the front of the village hall and the hall will be closed for a short period of time. Many thanks to the Parish Council for its continued support and to the whole committee and their family and friends who support the hall.

## **Comrades Hall**

### **Councillor Jacqui Sewell**

Most of you will know I took on the Chair of the Comrades Hall from David on Tuesday 26 April, just four weeks ago - my main aim was to ensure everything that David had planned for the Hall happens - I will leave the details about the new heating, solar panels etc to Sheila as she worked with David on these projects right from the start. Now having read historic papers starting in 1920 about the Comrades Hall - I can give a brief history. The ground on which the hall was built & the green known as Bernards' Place was a Farmyard, with just a simple barn with low stalls - it was Glebe Land that belonged to General Pinney of Race Down, Glebe Land was then used to support the Parish Rector. In the early 1900's the British Legion borrowed money and bought the Barn from General Pinney, converting it into a hall which was used by the village for many events. Before that all functions were held in the Old School now known as the Old School House, with a reading room further up the road on the left - men used to meet there to read the papers, play cards, billiards, dominoes etc I also discovered that the Comrades Hall is also celebrating its Platinum Jubilee this year - the British Legion return the Hall to Lady Pinney on November 25 1952, she then immediately gifted the Hall and ground known Bernards' Place to the Parishes of Broadwindsor on the same day - please note Friday 25th November in your diaries as we must celebrated this monumental event as well. A Miss Curtis attended the very first Committee Meeting on 5/12/1952 and of course the Curtis Family still live in the Broadwindsor Parish

## **Drimpton Village Hall**

### **Councillor Tim Bassett**

It has been a difficult period for village halls since our last report and Drimpton is no different. Happily, we have enjoyed good support from the Government while having to close due to the pandemic. During this period, we have been able to make some long awaited modifications to the hall. We have been able to put in extra insulation to help keep cost down. We were also able to re-decorate and install new and more energy efficient heaters. We have been able to extend the car park and repair the potholes in the existing car park. We have retained the patronage of many of the regular groups that use the hall, who are all now back to normal, but are finding it difficult to get new people to come and use the facility. Although in the fullness of time I'm sure things will get back to full throttle! We have had to cancel many Artsreach performances which has caused much frustration. But as the summer comes and we have exciting new events booked we look forward to getting back to normal.

## **Broadwindsor Group Parish Climate & Ecological Emergency Group**

### **Sheila Hawkins**

This is a small sub-committee group of the Parish Council that was established following the declaration of a Climate & Ecological Emergency in 2019, and which was led by David Leader. As reported in previous years, this group commissioned a report from Low Carbon Dorset to identify what beneficial changes to public buildings within the Parish area might be possible. One of the recommendations was for improvements to the building fabric of Comrades Hall

in Broadwindsor, replacement of the old oil-fired central heating system by an Air Source Heat Pump system, and installation of a solar array across the roof areas. As reported by Councillor Sewell, this work has now been completed, with massive financial help through grant funding from Low Carbon Dorset and The National Lottery Community Fund. The building has significantly reduced its carbon footprint, uses self-generated electricity during daylight hours and is now a much warmer centre for all kinds of community activities. The Parish Council contact for this group is now Councillor Rick Dyke. Sheila and Susannah Madigan regularly participate in monthly online meetings of Dorset Council's CEE Support Group and report back to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council. A wide range of topics and discussions are covered, ranging from sustainable public transport, how to manage roadside verges for biodiversity as well as safety, the proposal for creation of a National Park in Dorset, local production of fresh food, how to better insulate existing homes, renewable energy, and wind farms. These meetings are open to all Town and Parish Councillors, and it is interesting to hear how these topics are being tackled in other places across the county.

### **Beaminster Area and Broadwindsor ECO Group**

#### **Sheila Hawkins**

Many of you will know of the Beaminster Green Day – organised by Beaminster ECO Group, led by Michael Dower, and covering all sorts of areas, including nature and biodiversity, tree planting, and building improvements– whether it's about insulation or the latest in renewable technology. I am here to talk mainly about trees and June will talk to you about Greener Homes. Beaminster Eco Group has established a tree nursery in the grounds of Beaminster School to grow saplings from locally collected tree seeds. When big enough, these are donated to individuals in the local communities around Beaminster and its surrounding villages to grow on and nurture, to help biodiversity and provide small carbon sinks. In Broadwindsor, the Eco Group has established another small tree nursery, located on the Allotment site. We were fortunate enough to receive a generous gift of 240 young saplings, all native species, from Groves Nurseries, which started off this nursery. During the planting season, from November 2022 we will be donating these to community members who have suitable places to plant them – either individuals with gardens, or public spaces within the Parish, or perhaps to the CLT development at Netherhay Lane in Drimpton, where lots of hedge planting will take place as part of the landscape design. We are a small group of individuals trying to cover a huge area of topics within our local Parish Area. We would welcome more volunteers to help formulate ideas of how we can help nature and biodiversity at this critical time – this could be litter picking, creating spaces for discussions, volunteering to plant and take care of trees and wildflowers, organising community wildlife surveys – plants, birds, amphibians, moths and butterfly counts. Please leave your contact details at our information table – thank you.

## **Greener Homes**

### **June Ruffle**

My names June Ruffle, I live in Redlands Lane and I'm helping with the Greener Homes project. With rising oil and electricity prices, there's never been a better time to go green. With a heat pump, for every four units of energy you use, three come from the air. Dorset Greener Homes has been running for nine years and is part of Dorset Climate Action Network. They are looking for people who have made energy saving improvements to their home, such as solar panels, ground source and air source heat pumps, in fact any home improvement which reduces your carbon footprint. If you fit the bill would you be willing to open your home in early October, to visitors who have been thinking about making green improvements, but are just a bit too nervous to take the plunge. By showing them your green home and answering their questions, they may well decide to go ahead. Contact me if you would like to take part, or if you know of anyone who might be interested. I will ask Helen to add my contact details to her report for the parish magazine.

## **Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust**

### **Councillor Rowland Hibbard**

In last year's report David had the pleasure of announcing that the CLT had been granted planning permission for the 15 affordable houses on the site in Netherhay Lane, in this year's report I have the pleasure of informing you that the building work has commenced our preferred builders are C.G.Fry and the site is being developed in conjunction with ABRI housing association, the footings for almost all the houses are in place and the site is a hive of activity. One disappointing fact to report is that there has been a theft of materials from the site which is being investigated, we are hoping a review of security and the installation of CCTV will prevent a repeat of this. We are introducing a "Homemaking" community project which will be running throughout the construction phase, we have commissioned Jenny Beck to produce an Art Work the project is being coordinated by Andrew Pastor, who will be organising workshop sessions to create bird and bat boxes, bird tables etc using waste wood materials from the building site, when it becomes available. The committee holds regular site meetings to check on progress and as such we are hoping that the project should complete around the end of May 2023

As David reported last year and in previous years reports this has been a very complex and difficult project and I am convinced that without the support of the Parish Council and the determination and fortitude of the members of the CLT committee in overcoming the very many obstacles put in their way by the Planning Department, Highways, and various legal departments this would not have been possible, I would like to point out that these difficulties and obstacles have added considerably to the cost of this project and I firmly believe that if the Government and Dorset Council are serious about increasing the affordable housing stock they need to buck up their ideas and attitude towards the hardworking and dedicated members not only of the Broadwindsor CLT but all CLTs as they save Councils many thousands of pounds by way of their efforts going unpaid. In summing up I give my thanks to all of the

committee who have supported this development and especially to Shelia our secretary who is the lynchpin of the CLT and to say that David would be proud of all of them. Just a last point the AGM of the CLT will be held on 20th June @ 7.30 in Drimpton Village Hall we will have representatives from C.G.Fry and ABRI to give a short presentation and to answer any questions, this is open only to CLT members so if you would like to join the CLT it only costs a minimum of £1 (you can give more if you wish) Application forms are available from Shelia or any member of the CLT board, they are also available on the CLT website.

### **FMT Trust**

#### **Helen Cudmore, Clerk to the Parish Council**

The FMR Trust was established to support charitable activities for the benefit of the local community in Broadwindsor, Drimpton and Blackdown. Specifically, it provides grants for active recreational projects. Like many other organisations, the impact of COVID has seen a much reduced number of applications as compared to previous years. For the period 2021/2022 the Trust provided five grants to local projects totalling £3286.86. These were as follows:

1. Two grants of £711.75 and £705.70 were made to the Parish Council for the loan repayments which was used to part fund the Multi-Use Games Area.
2. A grant of £750.00 was made to Drimpton Village Hall for LED floodlights.
3. A grant of £ 369.41 was made to 1<sup>st</sup> Broadwindsor Guides for an outdoor shelter.
4. A grant of £750.00 was made to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council to support the ongoing maintenance of the Lewesden Hill Memorial.

The Trust has invested in an Equities Investment Fund and has shares with a current value of £81,402.46 (as of 31 March 2022). The Trust receives a quarterly dividend which does fluctuate somewhere between £600 - £1000. The cash balance in the bank as of 31 March 2022, the year end was £3122.83. The Parish Council is the sole trustee of the Trust and Trustees convene each quarter to consider applications. The Trust very much encourages the community to put forward their projects, please do contact me if you have any questions.

### **Broadwindsor and District Sick Poor Fund**

#### **John Hansford**

This fund was set up to offer financial help to residents of the local parishes. This charity has continued to make donations to both individuals of the parishes and charities and organisations that has helped parish residents.

### **Broadwindsor Allotment Group**

#### **Stefan Nikolov**

We have had a successful year in that all of the allotments are now in use, and a few members of BAG have also taken responsibility for marginal areas of the allotment perimeter, bringing them into use. One plot is being used at the moment as a tree nursery as part of a Broadwindsor Eco-group project. We welcomed the 1st Beaminster Beaver Scouts on site in March who planted 60 trees as part of the Woodland Trusts Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy, to finish off a section of hedgerow by the entrance gate. The community orchard continues

to develop, and we are expecting the first fruits this summer, and the area round the orchard was planted as a wildflower meadow again last summer. A number of allotment holders won various prizes and cups in the 2021 Melplash Show, Broadwindsor and District Horticultural Show and other local produce and floral shows. We look forward to new projects in the coming year. We hope to continue with quarterly work parties, improve the ramp access to the site, and lay the boundary hedge to provide greater shelter and wildlife habitats. We would like to say thank you to the Parish Council for their ongoing support in this valuable community asset, particularly their financial support for our main project this summer, the construction of an eco-composting toilet.

### **Footpaths and Verges in the Grouped Parish**

#### **Councillor Dorothy Rowe**

The Clerk asked me to speak to this meeting about my vision for the verges at Broadwindsor crossroads. As I walked down to the crossroads yesterday morning to water the wildflower beds, I asked myself this question. So - what is my vision? And it is this:

For all the hamlets and villages in this rural Group Parish to look attractive, to be welcoming, cared for, neat and tidy where appropriate, and with attention also given to nurturing areas where wildlife can thrive. As a starting point David Leader and I with the support of the Parish Council, started the wildflower planting in 2020, focussing on the crossroads at Broadwindsor, we were both committed to the project, and I am sure you will all understand my wish to succeed with this project in 2022. In 2021 Dorset Council included Broadwindsor in their 'Cut & Collect' verge management plan. This involves collecting the cuttings, which over time reduces the nutrients in the soil thus encouraging and promoting indigenous wildflowers and a wildlife rich environment. This strategy also reduces the number of cuts each year, so ultimately is a cost saving exercise. However in 2021 and now also in 2022, this system has resulted in many complaints from residents about the untidy and unkempt state of the verges. So I am now proposing to Dorset Council on behalf of the Parish Council that the Parish Council takes over the management of the verge nearest to the crossroads where the bench is sited with Dorset Council managing the rest of the verges on the Beaminster and Bridport roads. Volunteers in the village have mown this area over the past few weeks. The bench is now accessible, the nettles growing through it have been pulled out, and I am sure those of you who have seen this will agree that with the mowing and the burgeoning wildflower beds, this area is already looking attractive and welcoming. I believe that if we can achieve this arrangement with Dorset Council it will result in a greater satisfaction from residents and will detract from the wilder appearance of the rest of the verges, with actually the two complementing each other. The current sowing and mowing have been achieved through the input of volunteers from Broadwindsor village and I am optimistic that with continued input from the community we can establish continuing wildflower verges throughout the Parish.

## **Broadwindsor Community Stores**

### **Councillor Fraser Hughes**

Despite the difficulties presented by COVID during 2021 the shop continued to prosper with sales of almost £297,000 and a profit of £951. The Click & Collect Service was highly successful, but the combination of limited space in the shop and a decline in sales as life began to get back to normal meant the Committee had to reluctantly halt the service in the meantime. But we thank the three committee members who spearheaded the operation. This year we have seen a number of developments, none more so than Kevin stepping down as Manager after five years in the role. His term at the helm has been highly successful and we thank him for all his efforts. We have a new Manager waiting in the wings and we hope he will be joining us very soon. In the meantime, we'd like to thank Jane and Margaret who have done a sterling job in holding the fort. The shop would not exist without two other parties, our fantastic group of volunteers and our wonderfully loyal customers. Although we have lost some longstanding volunteers in the last year, principally from moving away, they have been replaced by new village residents and we welcome them aboard. This year, like all businesses, the shop is facing a number of challenges. Suppliers are continuing to raise prices as inflation and scarcity of some products hits, and of course we are not immune from the effects of steep increases in electricity, transport etc. We are doing our best to limit shop price rises where we can but inevitably, we have to pass most of these rises on. The committee, staff and volunteers are all working hard to ensure that the shop, now in its tenth year of operation, continues to serve the community in the best manner possible. We would like to thank customers for all their support over the years, and into the future.

## **Broadwindsor Community Pub**

### **Councillor Rick Dyke**

A year in the life of the White Lion – has there been a more momentous year? It's suggested that in 1651 King Charles II visited the pub whilst he was in hiding from Parliamentary troops and staying across the Square after fleeing from the Battle of Worcester, however the White Lion element of that is just hearsay. Hopefully in years to come 2021/22 will be remembered factually as the time that the White Lion first became a community run venture and began its journey from strength to strength. Events during the year have already been reported extensively however, in summary, the pub closed its doors in May 2021 and Palmers Brewery approached the Parish Council to ask if there was an appetite within the community to run the pub and take on the tenancy. A public meeting followed which showed immense community support and the process began of raising the funds needed to refurbish the pub, purchase new kitchen equipment, and provide enough working capital to ensure that the pub could trade with some certainty as to its financial security, particularly given the current uncertain economic times. All of this was the vision of David Leader, who led the project with his usual drive and enthusiasm. His diplomacy was also called upon regularly to ensure that we all remained on track and that, we did, eventually raising more than £50,000, enabling us to sign the tenancy agreement with Palmers in February 2022.

The terrible news of David Leader's death impacted on the whole community as he had been at the heart of it and had been an inspiration to so many of us. The committee was devastated but at the same time determined to realise David's vision for the White Lion. The refurbishment continued apace and as we now know, the White Lion's doors reopened again on Friday 29 April. Initially it has been a drinks service only whilst work continues in the kitchen, but food service will follow soon. In fact, last night, Monday 23 May saw the first private dress rehearsal and I can report that it was excellent! We fully expect to be able to open our kitchen over the Jubilee weekend, initially with a Jubilee themed offering and then moving towards what we anticipate becoming well known for as serving well-cooked pub food using local produce. Thanks are due to so many people and organisations. We have received several grants including from the Parish Council. We also received match-funding, but this was only possible because over 300 people, largely from within the community, contributed via the crowdfunding platform. A significant sum of money was raised thanks to the Comrades Arms pop-up bar and there was also an extremely successful celebration gig with five live bands in Comrades Hall. Many tradespeople also freely gave of their time and helped us transform the White Lion into the bright and fresh new look that has been so well received. Congratulations too go to Kate, Chloe and Louise Staff for the way in which they have embraced their new roles. All these groups and people have already been thanked over recent weeks. I would like to iterate my appreciation of all that everyone has contributed both financially and in terms of their time and experience. However, I would now also like to thank everyone that has visited the pub since it reopened. It is difficult to imagine how the opening few weeks could have been more successful without serving food. Our challenge is to use this as a platform to progress and to create the community focussed pub that David Leader envisaged.

### **Broadwindsor Fun Group**

#### **Adrian Gray**

Over the last two years in particular, the Broadwindsor Fun Group has grown into an organisation which has a raised community profile supporting and bringing together many village groups with whom we are pleased to work. Its governance has been regulated to include important strategy documents setting out grievance, child safety and a statement of purpose. These documents allow the group to make funding bids and gives an overall professional basis for its function. Whilst by necessity the committee remains small (decisions need to be made by those elected) the group continue to seek assistance and guidance from the community, particularly in regard to events and their running. To this the group have arranged fund raising events such as bingo, a quiz, a beetle drive and coffee mornings to name a few. Similarly, the structure of the Jubilee celebration was amended as a result of community feedback. After all, events are held for the community and need the support of that community to be successful. Following the last fun day, the group were pleased to donate money to two local good causes. The group are currently providing support to a project seeking to sell village T shirts with the aim to purchase a Royal British Legion 'Tommy' war memorial, for the village. We have also launched a project aimed at ensuring that as many



people as possible can attend the Jubilee picnic. The amount of work and time put in by committee members is huge. Thanks also goes to Broadwindsor.org who have become, alongside the village newsletter, one of the main methods of communication. The jubilee celebrations are only a few days away and to thank everyone involved would probably take far too long and then I would probably still miss someone! So simply put; thanks everyone. The group AGM will be held in August/September where all posts will be open for election and ideas will be sought from all of the community. We already have a few ideas but need community feedback first!

### **Broadwindsor.org**

#### **Wendy Shields**

When I first reported on Broadwindsor.org to the Group Parish Council in November 2020, just 9 months of the website being live, it was receiving over 5,500 visitors a month and I suggested this proved itself a worthy conduit of information for the village. Now, in May 2022, the website frequently exceeds that many visitors in a week. The local businesses that supported Broadwindsor.org, a not-for-profit organisation on 23 April 2021 have recently been issued their renewal invoices (still £15/year). I'm encouraged that some have renewed. Only two businesses have declined to renew: one who has now retired and another dropped out as they couldn't advertise on Broadwindsor's Facebook page as frequently as they would have liked to. Sadly, funeral arrangements and Celebrations of Life receive the most visitors followed closely by any 'shocking news' and 'angry farmers', which Cllr. Frampton can vouch for. Although organised by the National Trust, the Lost Pilot ceremony brought thousands of visitors to Broadwindsor.org as it was the only website to have recorded the ceremony – messages of thanks were received from many who couldn't attend. Of course, the campaign to (successfully) resurrect the White Lion was closely followed by thousands and continues to be. Thankfully, I am not on that committee, but I do frequently get approached to speak on people's behalf.

Up to date hardware continues to be an issue as a great deal of my voluntary work involves seeing and assisting members of our community in their homes, at the post office, in the Community Hall at Fullers and even in our pub. To quote Elizabeth I, *"I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king..."*: I currently cart my heavy 15" laptop about which is cumbersome and can be restrictive for my work in several circumstances. I have also made the offer of running some IT workshops in the White Lion Community pub. People from all around the globe visit our village of Broadwindsor in the virtual world: from The USA & Canada to Australia, China to El Salvador and Sweden to South Africa as well as the UK and Europe. I do hope in this forthcoming year that the Parish Council will appreciate the value of this resource.

## **Broadwindsor Women's Institute**

### **Delyse Gray**

Broadwindsor WI currently have 22 members. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and our year runs from April to April. Our first meeting for 2021 was held on 27 May due to COVID restrictions being in place in April. This meeting was an afternoon tea party enjoyed by all and held in Bernards' Place. This resulted in several new members who were most welcome. The outdoor meetings continued in June with a visit to a Broadwindsor garden where we had a talk by the resident on their koi pond whilst enjoying homemade punch and canapés. July's meeting was a walk from Bridport football club to West Bay followed by an Indian meal. Our annual BBQ was held in a member's garden during August. Our first indoor meeting was in September where we practised the art of sugar craft. This was well received and most enjoyable with members each being given a small kit to work on at home. Sadly, COVID meant that our October meeting had to be cancelled but this did not stop members making a wonderful poppy display that was placed on the WI garden for Remembrance Day. A Thanksgiving dinner was held in Comrades Hall during November, and we celebrated the Christmas period in the Stableyard restaurant to which partners were made most welcome. The New Year found us back in Comrades Hall where members displayed and demonstrated their skills in handicraft. During February a member gave a very thought provoking presentation on her experiences working in Russia with orphans. We all learnt a great deal about Russian life. St Patrick's day was celebrated at our March meeting where a traditional Irish stew prepared by some members, was served. Activities for the evening included Irish dancing, skittles and naturally, a small Irish whisky! Our AGM was held in April where the present committee was elected. We are very proud at the variety of topics covered at our meetings where we have great fun whilst learning new skills and being educated too. Broadwindsor WI are a friendly group who welcome new members of all ages and background. Please speak to any committee member should you wish to join; a free taster session is available should you need convincing! A notice board with details of meetings is situated in Back Lane opposite the White Lion public House.

## **Broadwindsor Rainbows, Guides and West Dorset Rangers**

### **Emma House**

Across the four sections, there are currently fifty-five young ladies involved with six regular volunteers who take part in a wide range of activities. Recently the Guides planted six hundred trees, twenty-six girls will be going to camp this year, a festival in Hampshire with many different activities including archery, zip wires and abseiling. The girls have worked hard with their fundraising and have managed to significantly bring down the cost of their ticket. The gazebo which was kindly funded with support from the FMR Trust will also be taken. The girls have been involved with many different events in the community such as helping with the bunting and floral festival for the Jubilee celebrations. We will always try and fulfil any request to help in the community and the best way to keep up to date with our activities is through our Facebook page.

### **Broadwindsor Post Office Users Group**

#### **Councillor Jacqui Sewell**

Since May last year we have gradually resumed 'normal service' whatever that is. During the COVID pandemic Sally, Ruth, Jean, Margaret, Diana and I made sure that everyone who wanted to use the Post Office felt safe to do so - keeping the Hall well ventilated with plenty of space between the chairs. In February we started making coffees again and gradually more and more people are sitting down and having a coffee and a chat, sadly there are a couple of residents that are no longer with us - I can still remember them coming in and enjoying a coffee and a 'chocolate biscuit' or two. If anyone would like to help on a Tuesday or Friday please make contact or come into the Hall during the Outreach Service to see what's involved. And just a reminder that with yet more Banks closing you can pay into or draw cash out of most Banks at the Post Office Outreach Service in the Comrades Hall and order your foreign currency for your holiday.

### **Broadwindsor Community Speedwatch**

#### **Councillor Fraser Hughes**

With the imminent arrival of the SIDs equipment for measuring speed in the Parish, the Speedwatch Group has suspended operations until the effects of SIDs are evaluated. There is no doubt that Speedwatch has been successful, and the number of speeding motorists has fallen. However, we cannot legislate for the those that have no intention of conforming to any speed limit. I would like to thank all members of the Speedwatch Group who have turned out in early mornings, often in cold and wet winter weather, to try and make our roads safer for our residents, particularly children.

### **Drimpton & District Gardening Club**

#### **Martin Rowan-Robinson**

Last year our activities were severely constrained by COVID. However, we were able to resume meetings in July when we had an outside meeting which was mainly an opportunity for members to get together socially and plan for our Annual Show. Thanks to the hard work of our Show Secretary Robin Moses we did have a very successful Show in August, having had to cancel in 2020. The event was well attended with many exhibits and very positive feedback. We resumed our normal programme of meetings in September starting with a postponed AGM. Unfortunately our October meeting was cancelled because of COVID and our November speaker was ill and unable to attend. We had a successful Quiz and Puds evening in January. Thanks to Bob Shepherd for his excellent quiz and Rosemary Shepherd for organising the puddings which were as always of an excellent standard. Sadly, we have not had a Potato Day this year as Pennards the Nursery who attended have decided they are no longer doing this, other than in a few locations very close to them. We did, however, have a very successful Potato themed coffee morning when Keith Mayes gave a shortened taster version of the talk he was meant to have given in October. This was so good we have booked him for next year's programme. In February we had our AGM, on this occasion the correct time! It was agreed at the meeting that our name Clapton, Wayford, Drimpton & District

Horticultural Society should be changed to the shorter and less formal Drimpton & District Gardening Club. The March meeting and the Spring Show went ahead as normal so we are looking forward to a more normal year next year. Plans are well advanced for our Annual Spring Show on Saturday 13th August. The Society continues to be supported by its committee. Special thanks to John Wright - Chair, Diana Leake-Secretary, Robin Moses-Show Secretary and Julia Borland - Treasurer.

### **Broadwindsor Cricket Club**

#### **Councillor Andrew Frampton**

Firstly, I am sorry I cannot be there in person to address you all and answer any questions, but I'll try and address everything I can that is happening and proposed at the ground. Firstly, thank you. Thank you for all your help and support in us being able to raise the £35,000 we raised to purchase the ground and put it into a sporting trust so that it will always remain a green space for the village and will never be developed into residential housing. I know the purchase happened a couple years ago but this is the first APM in person since and all the management committee just wanted to thank all who donated and supported us in securing the future of the village cricket club and ground. Under the tutelage of our magnificent chairman Mr Clive Stafford Smith we are going to significantly upgrade facilities at the club, not only for cricketing aspects but for general use of the ground for all our guests, visitors and villagers. Shortly solar panels will be fitted to the pavilion roof and lithium batteries in the roof space to harvest and store photovoltaic energy so we can have a constant stream of electricity for the pavilion enabling showers, fridges and lighting to be used in the pavilion. This will make the player and visitor experience much better enjoying hot showers followed by cold beers afterwards.

We are in discussion with Robert Tolley about renting 1/4 of an acre through the hedge in his field for car parking thus freeing up space for us to install practice nets in the far corner of the field where the cars usually park behind the pavilion. It is hoped a hard surface car park will create more space in the ground and help attract village events to the ground. On this subject we helped host the village firework display last year. Now we were overwhelmed with the amount of people who attended and it rather caught us out on catering for all the visitors. The venue and display was simply amazing and we have agreed to make this a permanent thing going forward but will be much better prepared for this year's event. We have put together an organising committee and have incorporated some of the members who have organised in previous years to help with all aspects. We will also be donating some of the profits to village campaigns and as previous years the event will be free to attend. We are looking to loan the field opposite for car parking weather permitting as the amount of cars parking everywhere round the village caused some disruption and was a little worrying having so many children walking down the main road in the dark. We are currently liaising with Councillor Simon Christopher looking at a cost effective option of extending the footpath down the pedestrian entrance at the top end of the ground. We are also supporting Robert and Maria Tolley's long standing campaign to get a 40mph speed to the bottom of Clan hill.

Now the ground is owned by us we really can open it up for villagers and events to enjoy the space and facilities all year round which was previously prohibited by previous owners.

On the field it's been a slow start to the season with two Sunday League games being rained off and our game against Milborn Port being conceded as they couldn't raise a side. This said Broadwindsor Cricket Club sit proudly at the top of the Mid Wessex League thanks to a fine 6 wicket win against Yeovil cricket club with our 17year old batsmen Adam Moss scoring a maiden century and 16 year old Ollie Weatherall chipping in with 21 not out to see Broadwindsor chase down 193 with three overs to spare .15 year old Jack Ronan also took 3 wickets so it is great to see such young talent been given a chance to blossom at a village cricket club. It would be lovely to see any supporters at the ground when we have home games or if you would like to sponsor a boundary board with your company or business name, we have a few spaces available. We will be hosting Broadwindsor Group Parish Council's July meeting so if you haven't visited the pavilion yet then this would be a great opportunity.

#### **Broadwindsor Community Sportsfield**

##### **Councillor Fraser Hughes**

This is another amenity that David Leader held dear to his heart. I'm pleased to report that the purchase of the new mower late last year has improved the quality of the cut and I would like to thank the team of volunteers who cut the grass on a weekly basis. The field is a tranquil place which is ideal not just for the playing of football and other games, but also picnics and for the exercising of dogs. I'm pleased to say dog owners have become more responsible regarding dog fouling which make the Sports Field a more pleasant place to visit. I encourage families to use it in the coming summer months, but please take your litter home with you!

#### **Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club**

##### **Councillor Steve Chubb**

Due to lack of children in the village and no one willing to run it the youth club has closed.