



BROADWINDSOR GROUP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2021

REPORTS

Annual Report of the Parish Council

Councillor Rowland Hibbard

Good evening and welcome to the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting, my apologies that we didn't have a meeting in 2020 but life in general was interrupted last year with the onslaught of Corona Virus which has disrupted and curtailed many events and meetings and the various social occasions that would have normally been held in the Parish, and sadly has taken so many lives across the County and the Country since the first cases were reported in January of last year - our thoughts go out to all who have suffered loss. Despite a brief postponement to monthly meetings to allow various rules to be modified the Parish Council started meeting again in June last year creating a piece of history as it was the first time that a Parish Council meeting was held online in the Broadwindsor Parish, this has enabled the Council to keep everything going with regard to maintaining services for the Parish and keeping the various departments at Dorset Council on their toes in matters from planning applications, roads hedge cutting, drains, footpaths etc.

The "pandemic" has been a catastrophic event but as with all difficulties in life it has brought out in the Parish a real sense of community at a time of great uncertainty with volunteers helping with transport, prescription collection and delivery and many other services, the Community Shop has shown to be one of the major success stories, a real lifeline to Broadwindsor and the surrounding villages, the staff and volunteers offering a click and collect service and home delivery for those who were unable to go shopping because of self-isolation, Councillors have also supported parishioners who were missing family and friends. Since the last Annual Parish Meeting the MUGA has been completed, a really valuable village asset allowing people to exercise and enjoy sporting activity and get some fresh air whilst keeping to the social distancing rules, my thanks to all on that committee who despite all the obstructions and delays and having to overcome various legal difficulties [the solicitors] have given the Parish a most wonderful facility. The Parish Council continues to give financial support to all the village halls and the Community Shop and extra assistance was given as soon as the lockdown came into force to support these facilities which were unable to derive any income. We support other organisations who give help to residents such as Bridport and District CAB, Life education Wessex and also the Shop again to help with the purchase of the

shelter so as to comply with social distancing, the telephone boxes have been adopted in Drimpton and Broadwindsor and we await to see how they will be reimagined soon. The Parish Council has given support to those who might be affected by the Fullers development by listening to residents' concerns and by highlighting them in our response to the Planning application, wildflower verges have been created to give the village a pleasant outlook and for those who don't have a garden to enjoy whilst exercising, a Welcome Pack has been developed to give to newcomers to the area information as to the activities and facilities available in the Parish. Our website is kept updated with local, county and national information and on our Facebook page during the Pandemic, having Zoom meetings online has expanded many Councillors' IT capacity and I am sure there are many who thought that they wouldn't be able to embrace this technology, but you never know until you try!!

One item which has caused much concern is the damage to the verges in Common Water Lane, this problem is being closely watched by members of the Council and hopefully soon we will be able to legitimately stop those who create the carnage on the verges, our footpaths are another popular topic and our Footpaths Officer is always keeping those involved in maintaining those paths heavily involved and I am pleased to report that action has been taken in improving a few that were causing concern. You will probably remember that Dorset became a Unitary Council two years ago and I expect our Dorset Councillor will give an update on how this is coming on, but I can't imagine that they would have foreseen the Pandemic on the horizon and wouldn't have liked to have dealt with all the problems and difficulties that have arisen because of it.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is now complete and has become a fully legal document and has to be considered when planning applications come before the Council. I feel even though I was the Chairman of the committee who developed the Plan that it doesn't carry as much weight as perhaps we and members of the public thought it would, but we do have it as a reference document and hopefully when it is reviewed it can be strengthened, I would like to convey my thanks to all members of that committee who put in many hours of hard work putting it together and to our consultant Jo Witherden who guided us very effectively. The CLT committee is another example of doggedness as they have had to overcome the most difficult hurdles in getting this much needed development to the point where planning permission has been granted it beggars belief that Dorset Council who are seen to be proactively supporting affordable housing can put so many obstacles in the way and cause so many headaches to a committee who are putting in hundreds of hours for no financial reward, there needs to be a very close look at how Dorset Council view their affordable housing remit when it comes to smaller parishes and to how they treat the CLT committees, so my thanks to all on that committee.

In summing up this evening you can see that Broadwindsor Group Parish Council is a very proactive and forward thinking Council which is down to the Councillors on it and the members of the public who give support to the committees when needed so my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your hard work, especially during this last year. Finally, the Parish

Council would have ground to a halt without the sterling effort and hard work of our Clerk who has performed above and beyond her duties this year and my job as Chairman would have been so much harder without Helen keeping us all in line so my thanks to her. I hope that we soon see a more normal way of life returning and that we won't have to go back to lockdown so please stay safe, remember Hands, Face, Space!!!

Dorset Council

Councillor Simon Christopher

There is concern amongst local families that the school bus running from Broadwindsor ran late I understand every day last week, twice not departing until after 9.00 am. On one occasion I understand that the bus driver was unfamiliar with the route. I understand that students have been arriving at school late and have missed segments of lessons. This is totally unacceptable, especially given the disruption to education the students have already suffered. I have contacted Andrew Parry, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Ray Bryan, Cabinet Member for Highways and Buses. I continue to work on matters relating to Common Water Lane, I will not make any further comment ahead of the Police and Crime Commissioner election next week. You may be aware that Hertfordshire Council and others brought a legal action against the Government's decision not to allow parliamentary time to allow legislation for the continuing use of virtual meetings beyond early May 2021 .The hearing was held on 21 April and as I write this report we are awaiting the result of the court decision.

I am pleased that planning permission was granted for Broadwindsor Cricket Ground for a change of use for adjacent land to be changed from agricultural land to ancillary car parking for 20 cars. Included on the decision notice are a number of conditions, one of which is that prior to the development being brought into use any entrance gates shall be set back a minimum distance of 4.5m from the edge of the carriageway and hung so that the gates can open inwards only. There is also a requirement that prior to the commencement of any development a planting scheme for a new hedgerow shall be submitted to and approved in writing by Dorset Council, the approved scheme to be implemented during the planting season November to March following commencement of the development or within a time scale to be agreed in writing.

Since the last meeting, in the South of the Dorset Council Marshwood Vale Ward a major slip of the cliff East of Seatown has occurred and I am sure we are all aware that the slip appears massive and could at a different time could have had devastating loss of life. We should all be mindful of the instability of the cliffs if we travel down to the coast. With the continuing dry weather, it is easy to forget the consequences not least, for our farmers, I understand, this being the driest April for some 80 years. There is an appreciation that there are consequences for farmers, for example the amount of water used in dairy farming livestock arable and indeed mixed farming paying more than £2 a cubic metre. Other parish councils often talk of river pollution due to slurry and other waste entering our rivers. I am under the impression that across Dorset that there are increasing numbers of farmers wishing to leave the dairy

industry whether conventional or organic dairy farmers choosing to get out of dairying. This may be reflected with the Dorset County farms estate. While the dairy sector plays its role in the presentation of our green and pleasant land we should remember the safety aspect with accidents on farms across the Country exceeding 50 in the last year. Our local farmers have to cope with restrictions on abattoir availability, the high incidence of TB in cattle and as result of the two previous points, having animals to cull being left on the farm too long. Despite sheep and beef prices holding up well dairy prices are in the doldrums and the dry weather is set to impact on crop yields. Many farmers have diversified into tourism and one concern is how long Dorset Council's planning team is taking to process applications. I have particular concerns that decisions are consistent, and you may please want to consider whether you have any thoughts on this. Dorset Councillor Ray Bryan appears to have devoted a considerable amount of his time to safety matters in Weymouth particularly railings by the harbour. The railings have caused an enormous amount of press coverage, whether the railings are needed you can judge for yourself. I have made my mind up that they are necessary.

I am aware that there is considerable frustration concerning poor mobile phone coverage whether in the remotest parts of the Marshwood Vale Ward or even within parts of Dorchester. You may be aware that the Council is using its own waste collection vehicle to monitor mobile phone coverage across Dorset. It is my understanding that the Government is proposing law changes that will allow phone masts to be increased in size in rural areas to improve coverage. It is further my understanding that the proposals are for the mobile phone companies to be allowed to build masts up to five metres taller and two metres wider than presently allowed. There is the desire on the part of H M Government to eliminate 4G hot spots as they are termed and to speed up the roll out next generation 5 G networks. There is discussion of a new Green Homes Grant as HM Government looks to meet new carbon targets in particular the new target to reduce emissions by 78 per cent by 2025 when compared with 1990 levels . With more than 800,000 rural homes heated by oil this will be a major challenge as those living off grid are encouraged to move to alternatives such as ground source heat pumps. The Cabinet of Dorset Council will be considering the future of St Mary's Shaftesbury, this was purchased by the Dorset Council earlier this year. This was then followed by a public consultation around the Council's preferred option for use for Special Educational Needs pupils. The vast majority of the respondents to the survey agreed with the preferred option of Dorset Council. The envisaged daily commute to the school is 45 minutes so my colleagues and I will be looking for appropriate investment in the West of the County. eg at Mountjoy, Beaminster. There has much discussion of the National Bus Strategy and the idea that the transport portfolio holders in Councils across the land are charged with the duty to come forward with proposals in the next few weeks, so assisting amongst other things, helping the economy bounce back from the depths of the recession providing an improved service for residents and holiday makers. I am concerned about the level of road rage as people drive on local lanes and hope people will treat others with respect as Dorset becomes busier during the next few months. Having spoken at length about farming at the start of this report I

shortly turn to accommodation and hospitality sectors but before I do, I will comment that Dorset Council has increased some car parking charges with a view to boosting car parking income that collapsed due to lockdown restrictions. In the twelve months to 28 February 2021 whereas GDP across the economy fell by 7.8 per cent across the Country, the corresponding figure for accommodation showed a reduction of 73.9 per cent and for food and beverage the reduction in GDP was 51.3 per cent. Clearly every assistance that Dorset can give to boosting the economy through a successful tourist system will be helpful for the Country's finances and also those of Dorset Council.

Community Policing

PCSO Alex Bishop

At the end of March, we were contacted due to concern of a drone being flown close to a property around the Four Ashes area. It does not appear that anyone was seen to be using the drone, but there were concerns that it was too close to the property (as per regulations) and could possibly be scoping the property out for targeted crime. However, criminals do not operate in a manner that would draw attention to their potential activity, especially when anyone can use Google maps, for example, to see any property around the world without leaving their home. It is more likely a hobbyist who had either lost sight of the drone or didn't realise how close they were. If anyone uses a drone or has an interest in them, please read the guidance and regulations on drone use on the website of the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority), or on the Government website. It was asked if they could be shot down if flying too close to properties, however this could constitute an act of criminal damage, so I would not do so. In a similar manner, we had a report of a suspicious incident where vegetables had been left on a spiked fence. The person was concerned this may have been a marker for criminals to target their property. However, as per my comment above, I do not think this likely.

Broadwindsor School

Councillor David Chumbley

This report could have been very short and have simply read, school closed, nothing to report, as back in March 2020 COVID-19 lockdown 1 struck. Although having 100 pupils at this time only key worker and vulnerable children were allowed at school. Mr Smith and the whole school team, in line with the regularly changing Government guidelines, quickly re-arranged the school to accommodate for this smaller number. Parents were understanding with the new system, and it was very successful. However, what to do with the other children? Again, the whole school staff rose to the occasion and operation home school began! As you can imagine this was a very trying time for pupils, parents and staff. New technologies, systems and ways of teaching were quickly introduced, monitored and tweaked to enable the children to continue getting the best learning experience possible. After many weeks of this situation the full return to school was announced. Once again Mr Smith and his team reviewed and revised the risk assessment to get ready for all the children returning but ensuring that they and staff continue to be protected. School re-opened and continued until normal closure in

July. Fast forward to 2021. The teachers continue with the various COVID-19 protocols necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and I believe that the school is now very adjusted to the new ways and continues to flourish.

We now have 105 pupils which is our limit. Girls 53 v Boys 52. We have several vulnerable children, and this figure is likely to grow later in the year. Our staff will change this year as the Early Years (EYFS) teacher, Mrs Morgan is retiring. We have appointed her successor, Mrs Knowles, who will start in September. New outdoor classroom facilities are being built at the bottom end of the playground. These will link in with our Forest School program and provide another exciting space for our children to learn. We are all aware of the massive upheaval COVID-19 caused during 2020. I am very pleased to say that despite the enormous challenges Broadwindsor School faced, it continued to provide not only teaching but many of the other essential aspects of school life i.e. sport, support and wellbeing, Christmas play and lunch, collective worship and many virtual events. We are even involved in the Tokyo Olympics! Our aim of Learning and Growing Together has proven to be very instrumental in achieving our goals during the most challenging of times.

Blackdown, Broadwindsor and Burstock Churches

Philip Hardwill

Within the area of the Broadwindsor Parish Council there are 5 Anglican buildings. St. John the Baptist, Broadwindsor; St. Andrew's, Burstock and Holy Trinity, Blackdown. St Mary's, Drimpton and St John, Seaborough. The church is administered by 3 individual Parochial Church Councils, Broadwindsor and Blackdown, with Burstock operate jointly with Drimpton, whilst Seaborough are independent. All are united within the Beaminster Team Ministry, who have 2 priests, the Rector who lives in Beaminster and the Team Vicar Reverend Jo Neary lives at the vicarage in Broadwindsor. Currently the Team also benefits from the services of a recently ordained Curate who lives at Mosterton.

The Electoral Roll for these 5 churches (the signed up membership) currently numbers 140 persons. The pattern of worship within the churches is as follows. Broadwindsor have a weekly service, Burstock and Drimpton have services twice a month, Blackdown have a monthly service and Seaborough have services 8 times yearly. The year from April 2020 has been as unusual for our 5 churches as it has for the general population. Public use of churches was prohibited from 23rd March 2020 and churches reopened for public worship on the 5th July 2020 but had to close again on 22nd January 2021, reopening again on 28th March 2021. During these periods of closure many of the churches were open for private worship, some on a daily basis and others by appointment. During the periods when our church buildings were closed for public worship, the Team has produced weekly online worship which is available to any who wish to view this on the Team churches website <https://beaminsterteamchurches.org/>. As well as the weekly online service there are weekly online prayer meetings, reflections from the team clergy and discussions which are posted on this website, along with notices and details of services within the 15 church buildings

administered by the Team. The churches within this Parish have strong links with the primary school at Broadwindsor. The Team Vicar contributes greatly to the life of the school, having started and continuing to lead an “after school club” which is one of the highest attended acts of worship within the Beaminster Team. Our churches continue to remain central to life in the villages and hamlets within the area covered by the Broadwindsor Parish Council and contribute greatly to activities and events within these villages. Thank you to all of the congregation and supporters who have kept the churches open financially and awake spiritually.

Blackdown Village Hall

Councillor Rowland Hibbard

This year has seen at Blackdown Village Hall as with many others in the Country how damaging this Pandemic has been in the way that many social events were cancelled because of the Corona virus, but we hope that life can return to some normality in the near future. There is little to report other than we have installed sanitising equipment as most halls have done, we are continuing to carry out repairs and refurbishment to the front wall which has needed doing for some time and also to carry out some resurfacing in the car park. We hope that the Flower Show will go ahead this year in September and that the usual groups will come back to use the Hall as soon as they are able to. My thanks to the Parish Council for their continued support for this valuable community asset, we are fortunate to have 3 halls in the parish which all offer different but still essential facilities and my thanks to all who serve on the Hall Committee and to their families and friends who support the Hall.

Comrades Hall

Councillor David Leader

The past year has been a year of work parties, at a time when normal activities haven't been able to take place, we have seized the opportunity to do as much renovation as possible. Hundreds and hundreds of hours have been given up by the Hall Committee and residents of Broadwindsor - the fallen down wall has been completely renovated, trees have been cut back and general maintenance has taken place. We have ambitious plans to revitalise the play equipment in Bernards' Place, to create a shelter which will be multi-purpose and can be used by all of the community, we want to with grant monies, replace the heating system with an air source heat pump supported by solar panels to bring us up to date and to have a greener future. Huge thanks to all those who have joined in with this adventure to revitalise the hall and grounds.

Drimpton Village Hall

Councillor Steve Chubb

It has been a difficult year but with help from the Government grants we have been able to stay viable. Whilst we were very short on events to put on we did manage a Christmas Market which we had to do outside, and despite the cold and rain it was a great success. We now have a new football team using the facilities and they have had a very good year and are looking to put in floodlighting on the pitch. We look forward to a better year in 2021/2 and

look forward to being able to host Parish Council meetings again! We have managed to carry out maintenance whilst closed, we redecorated the hall and put in new insulation.

Broadwindsor Group Parish Climate & Ecological Emergency Group

Susannah Madigan

Broadwindsor crisp packet recycling initiative - This has proved to be a very successful project and is well used by the community. The empty packets are collected fortnightly and taken to a depot in Bridport for onward recycling, as advised by Bridport Town Council.

Comrades Hall, Broadwindsor - Two initiatives currently underway: - installation of solar PV panels on the roof - replacement of the very old oil-fired heating system with an air source heat pump. Low Carbon Dorset has offered a contribution to the funding. An application to the National Lottery is in its second stage. We intend to revisit the possibility of installing electric vehicle charging points in our villages, as there will be an increased need in the very near future. Some EV chargers have optional charging modes to utilise 100% green energy generated from solar PVs.

Participation in other initiatives in Dorset - In January this year Sheila and I represented the Parish Council at a Zoom meeting of Dorset CE & E Group. The aim of this group is to share information and ideas county-wide with other Town and Parish Councils.

Beaminster Eco Group - We plan to form a link with this group, who are involved with Beaminster Town Council in an initiative to “address the climate emergency, protect our environment and enhance the wellbeing of our local community and economy”. Suggestions welcomed from within our own community.

Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor David Leader

I am delighted to report that in the last year we have gained planning permission for fifteen affordable homes for local people in Netherhay Lane, Drimpton. This has been a culmination of four years of hard work by the Community Land Trust which is made up of local people and through their endeavours and with the engagement of local people, I am convinced that we have designed a scheme which will look aesthetically pleasing, blend into the environment, it will be landscaped and populated with native trees and plants and will enhance the local environment. Most importantly, there will be fifteen well insulated, environmentally friendly homes which will cost less to heat for people with a direct connection to our community who are struggling to live with us. These are exciting times, the process for selecting the builder is well underway and we remain hopeful that the project will start in the Autumn of this year. A huge thanks to the CLT Board, the Parish Council and to all of the people who have engaged with the project from the outset.

FMT Trust 2020/2021

Helen Cudmore, Clerk to the Parish Council

The FMR Trust was established in 1962 to support charitable activities for the benefit of the local community in Broadwindsor, Drimpton and Blackdown. Specifically, it provides grants for active recreational projects. As there was no Annual Parish Meeting in 2020, I will report on those grants awarded last year and this year. For the period 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 the Trust supported four 8 amazing local projects with grants totalling £3,571.49. These were as follows:

1. Broadwindsor School was awarded £400.00 to support the resurfacing of its outside play area.
2. Drimpton Village Hall was awarded £200.00 to support the costs of purchasing a projector.
3. £200 was also awarded to Comrades Hall to support the cost of purchasing a projector.
4. Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club was awarded £320.00 towards first aid training for its volunteers.
5. Broadwindsor's Walking Netball Team received £197.94 which allowed them to purchase some new netball posts.
6. 1st Broadwindsor Guides received £299.80 which went towards the purchase of tents.
7. A grant of £500 was made to Broadwindsor Cricket Club to support its fundraising to purchase the grounds.
8. Two grants of £735.95 and £717.80 were made to the Parish Council for the loan repayments which was used to part fund the Multi-Use Games Area.

The Trust has invested in an Equities Investment Fund and has shares with a current value of £70,728.53 (as of 31 December 2020). The Trust receives a quarterly dividend which does fluctuate somewhere between £600 - £1000. The cash balance in the bank as of 31 March 2021, the year end was £3,473.37. 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

Like all charities lockdown has been a difficult year for the fund. Details of the fund will be in the Broadwindsor News and when lockdown is lifted, we will hold a meeting to make donations to Charities and Hospitals that support our needs.

Broadwindsor Allotment Group

Sheila Hawkins

Broadwindsor Allotments have flourished over the last couple of years. During the COVID-19 pandemic they have provided a calm and peaceful environment for people to be outside, taking exercise and growing plants – known to be psychologically beneficial to us all. During the 2020 season we welcomed several new plot holders to the site. With the majority of plots now occupied, the whole area looked very good. The Wildflower meadow did really well last year, and the small communal orchard that was planted in January 2020 survived the hot dry

summer. This year we have sown wildflowers around the fruit trees, which are beginning to germinate now. Hopefully over the summer months there will be a bright colourful show of wildflowers to attract pollinating butterflies and insects. One of our plot holders has taken on the bank on the northern boundary of the site, planting it up to provide an all-year-round colourful display of shrubs and flowers. The young hedge we planted 3 seasons ago is flourishing. We plan to lay it in another 2-3 years' time when the saplings are suitably mature. It will then bush out and provide good habitat for wildlife as well as growing to provide some shelter from the prevailing winds that gust over the site. This season, almost all the plots are now taken, which is marvellous, and again we have welcomed a number of new plot holders. There is a good mix of age groups working across the site, and we now have several young families with children taking an interest in growing good stuff to eat.

Broadwindsor Community Stores

Andrew Hookings

This has been a difficult year, as we all know, with this dreadful pandemic having such an impact on our everyday way of life. Broadwindsor Community Stores suffered with supply issues; limitations on customer numbers in the shop at any one time; desperate shortage of volunteers as the majority were self-isolating or shielding; our manager's absence following a heart attack and shop assistant on long term sick leave. However, with the support of the COVID grants from the Parish Council, Dorset Council and Dorset Community Foundation, donations and members of our community stepping into the breach and volunteering, the shop has survived. Not only has the shop survived, but as the community shopped local, we have recorded our best year in terms of turnover and profit. In fact, we have recorded our highest level of turnover of £303,162. Our net profit amounted to £14,724 against a budgeted profit of £185. However, the year's turnover and resulting net profit included 'COVID' grants of £2,000 from the Parish Council and £10,000 grant from Dorset Council, both of which are much appreciated.

To support our community three of our management committee, our treasurer Sandra Burrows, Nathalie Roberts and Teri Small, developed a delivery service during the first 'lockdown' for the vulnerable who were shielding and unable to shop. Once the first 'lockdown' came to an end, the team of three, known fondly as the three Musketeerettes, decided to look at developing this highly regarded service. The upshot is our Click and Collect service, the first of its kind for a community shop, has proved to be a huge bonus for the business and welcomed by our customers. The quality of the fresh fruit and vegetables has been a major contributor to the sales with the service and we are keen to continue the service if the customer demand continues. It goes without saying that we owe the three ladies a huge thank you - their commitment, drive and enthusiasm has been extraordinary.

The management committee was strengthened following the addition of Nick Chandler, who has retail and marketing experience, following the retirement from the committee of Susannah Madigan, who had been committee secretary since the early days of BADCE. The day to day business continues to be well managed by Kevin Madder-Smith, ably supported by

Jane Sloman, who returned to work in June following a long illness, and Margaret Wing. We have also had the part time services of Grace Dawson who will be leaving us in September. The staff team has coped admirably during the current COVID difficulties, always careful to ensure customers are wearing masks and sanitising hands and supporting our wonderful band of volunteers, many of whom were shielding and self-isolating during lockdowns but are now gradually returning to the fold. We have seen some regular customers leaving the village for pastures new but have we have seen some newcomers to our community joining our band of volunteers, which is much appreciated. The shop itself has benefited from a new freezer and display chiller, part funded by grants along with several donations. With the new equipment, we will be looking at an improved layout in the shop early in 2021.

With restricting customers in the shop to one at a time, we were aware that customers would have to queue outside during the winter weather. Committee member and volunteer Chris Edgerley designed and built a new shelter at the front of the shop which has been a huge benefit to our customers. Assisted by a number of the committee and members of the community, the new shelter was put in place on a very wet winter's Sunday morning. A big 'thank you' to Chris and his team. I would also like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support for the business not only through our annual grant but also several additional grants this year which have helped towards the costs of new freezer, chiller and materials for the shelter. A big thank you to all the committee for their hard work over the last year, in such difficult circumstance, especially coping with virtual meetings Finally, I would particularly like to thank the local community for their continuing support during this past challenging year. We look forward to seeing the members at the forthcoming 2021 AGM, following the unavoidable cancellation of the 2020 AGM.

**1st Broadwindsor Rainbows, 2nd Broadwindsor Brownies, 1st Broadwindsor Guides, 1st West Dorset Rangers
Emma House**

We have had quite a quiet year in terms of big and exciting activities, however that does not mean we have been stagnant during this pandemic. Following all the guidance set by the Government, Girlguiding and the National Youth Agency, we closed our units down the week before the schools first closed in March 2020 as we were classed as non-essential. We all took a break to get used to the situation we found ourselves in. Zoom then came into our lives and we began to offer online guiding from our 3 units right through the lockdown. Not all girls managed this, but we felt it was important that those who wanted to be able to see their friends were able too. We also offered activities in the form of packs delivered to their homes, letters personally written to cheer everyone up, and online activities produced by Girlguiding also that we shared with our families and locally within the communities in which we live. During the periods of being able to meet face to face we have got together outdoors doing various activities. The Brownies utilised the outside space at the Hall whilst the rainbows and guides have moved around woodlands, the beach as well. We even managed a few inside Hall meetings when allowed before the lockdowns hit us again.

Blended Guiding is now a new provision available which widens access available for all. Dorset now even has its own Virtual Rainbows unit covering the whole county. We chose not to charge our families any fees until the winter term this year and have taken a bit of a hit cost wise for any resources we have provided the girls during the lockdown but felt that our families were being hit harder then ever before and we needed to support them as they would do us when we need it. We have found advertising difficult however, and now look to encourage girls to give our units a try. In January we opened the West Dorset Rangers Group and so far we have not yet had the pleasure of meeting face to face! Our first outdoors meeting will be this Thursday. Thankfully it has not yet deterred the girls. We are excited to see what the next year holds as we begin to hopefully come out the other side of the pandemic.

Broadwindsor Post Office Users Group

Councillor Jacqui Sewell

What a year 2020 was! In the February we invested in a 'proper coffee machine' - when it arrived we were so looking forward to using it, we had lessons on how it worked, new mugs were bought and thanks to John Staff for altering our cupboard, we could store it away safely. Then Lockdown happened, luckily I discovered from reading the Government Guidelines and talking to Steve Smith who runs our Outreach Service, he could still bring the Post Office to Broadwindsor – albeit complying with strict COVID-19 conditions, Steve came over to the Comrades Hall and we ran through the regulations, carried out a 'risk assessment' etc, and it was agreed that Post Office was OK to continue, although we could only have the service once a week on a Friday, then came the sorting out the 'hand sanitising, attendance register & the social distancing' for those waiting, by using the main hall that problem was easily solved, but as most of the Post Office Users Group are of 'a certain age' we needed help and luckily two younger volunteers came forward to help me with being there whilst the Post Office was open and we also must thank the Comrades Hall Committee who have allowed us to continue using the Hall rent free. When the Lockdown was eased the Post Office resumed its twice weekly service, and has continued even during the 2nd Lockdown, we are so grateful to John and Peter who always turn up with a smile and we are so looking forward to getting back to some sense of normality, but until we know what the regulations will be, we can only plan for when our 'Coffee Service' will resume – I'm not sure when we'll see lots of people sitting around the big table chatting again, and sadly some of our regular users will not be with us, having moved away.

Drimpton & Netherhay Youth Club

Councillor Steve Chubb

Due to COVID -19 the youth club has not operated but we will in the next few months discuss when it can open safely and if volunteers are happy to continue. Last year I mentioned that there may not be a Youth Club in 2019, thankfully I am stood here to say that we have a new leader - Emma Costin who has taken over the role with new helpers joining to ensure that the Youth Club can continue. Emma has updated the safeguarding policy to ensure that we comply with current regulations to ensure the safety of the children and adults. The Youth Club is looking to embrace climate change with ideas and learning in the coming years. Previous Youth Club activities have included:

- Film nights
- Games nights inside and outside the hall
- Walk to Lucy's Tea Rooms
- An educational visit from Bug Fest about insects etc. including the opportunity to touch some creepy crawlies
- Skittle night in the pub where over 20 children turned up, (future skittle players in the making)
- Summer and Christmas crafts
- Halloween disco (thank to Richard Tuck for being DJ for the night)

We are entirely self-funded and in April held a coffee morning in the village hall, thanks to all those that came and helped and played games. We applied to the FMR Trust for money to train seven helpers in first aid. All our helpers are DBS checked and we have trained first aiders at each event. All the above would not happen without volunteers so I thank them now for giving kids a village community to grow up in like I had, long may it continue.

Clapton, Wayford, Drimpton & District Horticultural Society

Martin Rowan-Robinson

A very different year. This time last year we had just entered lockdown, little did we anticipate that a year later we would still not have resumed our regular meetings . However at the end of this year the Society feels strong , our membership loyal and looking forward to an exciting 2021/22 . Throughout the year we have maintained contact with our members via e mail and continued to have regular committee meetings via zoom. We've managed a number of activities. Last Spring we organised the distribution of sunflower seeds for anybody who wanted them in the village "Sunflowers bring Sunshine to Drimpton" - summer bright sunflowers in pots and gardens adorned the village . We had no alternative but to cancel our Show. Dermot Slack organised Open Gardens in Drimpton for the same day. This was very much a village event rather than one organised by the society although many of our members both attended and opened their gardens. Luckily the weather was good and we were able to enjoy each other's company in a safe outdoors environment while admiring all the gardening

that had been achieved during our enforced lockdown. Thanks to Dermot for arranging this and to Robin our Show Secretary who assisted him with the organisation and publicity.

We were still able to go ahead with our Potato and Fuchsia growing competitions. We had a fascinating afternoon in August visiting Brian Hesketh's organic garden. A handful of members attended and we exchanged ideas. It was a very useful meeting and might well be something we choose to repeat in the future. We are hoping to hold our first meeting after lockdown in July. This will probably be in the afternoon and held at the Village Hall, COVID regulations permitting. It will be a social meeting with wine and light bites, an opportunity for us all to socialise and plan what we would like from the Society in the future. Our annual show is planned for 14th August. We are hopeful we will be able to go ahead this year albeit with a rather modified format. Thanks to Robin Moses our Show Secretary for all his hard work to make this possible.

So last year has been a very different year. We are excited and looking forward to a more normal year next year. We have a number of new members who have moved into the village during lockdown and who are keen to be part of our Society. The Year has also been an opportunity to reflect on what we have missed. We are thankful that our Society has survived and think it may well emerge stronger.

Broadwindsor Cricket Club

Councillor Andrew Frampton

On behalf of Broadwindsor Cricket Club, a big thank to everyone for their kind support this year. The Club has managed to secure the grounds – contracts have been exchanged and we are just awaiting the signatures from the venders. The Club has signed up with the ECB to deliver coaching for 5-8 year olds along with Beaminster School, we have secured a County game - Dorset Under 11s will now be playing at the Club on 3 May, planning permission has gone through for a car park, we want to open up the facility for the whole village to use and we are hopefully to have electricity connected soon.

Broadwindsor Community Sportsfield

Councillor David Leader

I am delighted to report that the Sportsfield is being used as much as ever. We are lucky enough to have a strong group of volunteers who cut the grass each week, a huge thank you to all those who give up their time to help with this. The problem of dog fouling seems to have improved considerably over the last twelve months, helped by greater publicity and notices around the village. The Sportsfield remains a wonderful community asset, enjoyed by both young and old.