

BOPC Annual Chairpersons Report

2019/2020

Current Councillors:

Chairperson: Cllr Carolyn Carson

Vice Chairperson: Cllr Sarah Rankine

Cllr Dave Fletcher

Cllr Bob Warwick

Cllr Kate Goddard

Clerk to the council: Kate Barker

During this past year, the Covid crisis has clearly been the single most impactful issue for the council and Burton Overy. As a village, we have really pulled together to ensure those that need additional support have been able to ask for help and receive it. I would like to thank our Clerk, Councillors and members of St Andrew's Church for working collaboratively to implement and manage a Volunteer and Support scheme that has provided a mechanism for ensuring those in need of support receive it. It also provides a forum for community discussion and information exchange. It is working well and will continue whilst the crisis is on-going. The same collaboration has enabled the setting up of collections for our local food banks to help those in need in our wider community.

BOPC has had to change the way meetings are held from personal meetings to virtual meetings by Skype, which we have successfully accomplished. This is likely to continue for some time.

Covid has not been our only work however. The replacement of our street lighting to LED has now been completed and budgeted for adequately. I would like to thank the village residents for their understanding that allowed the raising of the village council tax element to cover the costs of this, going forwards. In terms of budget, due to having to change the way we work to comply with localism and local government requirements, our reserves are reducing, and this is not sustainable for the future. Therefore, through the next year we will be reviewing how these can be boosted, and it may require an increase again to the village element of the council tax. We will keep the village fully informed.

In terms of support for the village, BOPC have increased the amount we pay for the provision of Broadband in the village hall, to increase its speed to provide a more robust internet connection. We have added to the village assets, through joint collaboration with Harborough District Council, and private donation, to raise the funds needed to supply and fit the WW1 commemorative bench on Rectory End. We have funded enhanced signage to better sign post the location of the community defibrillator at the village hall, in response to community requests to do so.

Included in our budget each year is £200 to support community projects. This year we agreed to provide support for the progression of climate change education and how we can be aware of, and contribute to, change. However, due to the Covid crisis, this is currently on hold but do look out for information on this once we are able to resume such projects. We were also going to contribute to VE Day celebrations, but of course that was no longer needed.

During the past year, BOPC have been monitoring the progress of the plans for the new A46 dual carriageway. We shall have to wait to see how the crisis will impact on such plans but we will remain involved where we can.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to our Clerk, Kate Barker. Kate's professionalism and support, including much work in her own time through the Covid crisis, ensures we are effective as a council. BOPC is seeking to reflect the importance of Kate's role by reviewing the terms of contract to ensure it accurately reflects all of the tasks undertaken, and without which we would not be able to operate effectively.

Carolyn Carson

Chair Person BOPC

13th May 2020