



# No Mans Heath & District Parish Council Annual Report 2021 -2022

## *Chairman's Annual Report*

The last year has seen us gradually emerge from the Covid19 pandemic and adjust to the 'new normality', including the ability of the Parish Council to resume face to face meetings. We have, therefore, been able to progress a number of items delayed last year and to initiate a number of new issues.

On 5 May we were able to arrange a small gathering at the Chat Bench in No Mans Heath to recognise Herbert Ackerley's long service to the local community, including 20 years' on our Parish Council, 28 years running the local post office, 37 years as the Treasurer of the Coronation Hall in Bickley, 69 years on the Parochial Church Council and 82 years in the Church choir. A small plaque has been attached to the bench in grateful recognition.

This year will also see the retirement of our local PCSO, Jon Hurst. We are grateful to Jon for his support over many years and wish him well in his retirement.

During the year Jan Birch and Carolyn Day have retired as a Parish Councillors. One resulting vacancy has been filled by James Crossland but as the year ends we still have one vacancy unfilled.

### **We closed last year's report carrying forward three projects:**

1. A footpath from No Mans Heath to Malpas: this challenge was initially raised some time ago by a resident and is supported in principle by the Council but no progress has yet been made.
2. Flooding on the A41 at the Forts of India roundabout and properties on Witney Lane: with the benefit of Stephen Roberts' knowledge and expertise we have been able to substantially resolve this problem although some residual issues remain.
3. Speed limits, road signage and road conditions across our parish: we have made good progress with some of these issues but new problems continue to arise and are addressed by the Council as soon as it becomes aware of them.

### **Other projects completed this year are:**

1. Witney Lane speed limit: the Council has agreed to part fund a 20mph speed limit in Witney Lane; this will enable its introduction in the near future
2. The Chat Bench and adjacent litter bin have been funded by the Council are now installed next to the Celia Fiennes monument which has itself also been repaired
3. The Council, in conjunction with Cheshire West & Chester Council, is compiling a local Community Resilience Plan; this aims to enable it to proactively respond to any emergency impacting on the local area including pandemics, natural and man-made disasters and many more eventualities.
4. The Council has supported a local resident in establishing a No Mans Heath Neighbourhood Watch.

5. The Summer Play scheme will once again be organised and supported by the Council in 2022.
6. Planters, funded by the Council, have been installed at key sites around the local area; we are grateful to Tony Day and his team of volunteers for this contribution to the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
7. We are also grateful to Tony Day for his leadership of a valuable team of volunteers who are keeping our roads tidy and free of litter – this is no small task!

#### **Work In Progress:**

1. Problems with our local roads continue to arise with new potholes constantly appearing. We rely on all local residents to report these to Cheshire West & Chester Council as soon as they appear. When they are not repaired in a reasonable time the Parish Council can then take up the problem with CW&C.
2. The surface of Chester Road approaching the Hampton roundabout is under review but a quick repair is unlikely due to other priorities in the CW&C area.
3. The Littler's Croft play equipment has been removed; the Council is pursuing this and early restoration of the equipment is expected.
4. Two Councillors are taking leading roles in the local Ukraine Support Hub, a joint initiative with Malpas PC to assist Ukrainian refugees in the local community. Over 10 Ukrainian guests have been matched with local hosts. 50 local volunteers are involved, 3 families have arrived so far with a further 85 Ukrainians expected in total.

Once again the Council is grateful to the "invisible" residents who support neighbours, friends, and the whole community. In particular those who keep our streets, green spaces and main roads clean through their individual efforts. This year they will be slightly more visible as the Council equips them with 'high vis' vests. When you see them please thank them from all of us.

*David Lithgow Smith, Chairman*

### **Summary of Annual Accounts – 01.04.2021 – 31.03.2022**

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£10,845.07</b>
<b>ADD Receipts</b>		
Precept	£6,287.00	
VAT Rebate	£ 373.83	
CIL	£1,564.55	
Bank Interest	<u>£ 0.91</u>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 8,226.29</b>
<b>LESS Payments</b>	<b>£</b>	
Salaries	£4,445.85	
Admin, Subs, Audit	£ 740.11	
Donations	£1,273.00	
Insurance	£ 311.76	
Training	£ 155.00	
Defibrillators (maintenance)	£ 270.00	
My Village News (Annual Report)	£ 160.00	
Rental	£ 150.00	
Website	£ 600.00	
Village Maintenance	£ 26.40	
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 208.80	
Chat Bench	£ 699.00	
VAT (to be reclaimed)	<u>£ 67.34</u>	
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£ 9,107.26</u></b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b><u>£ 9,964.10</u></b>

## ***Meeting Dates***

No Mans Heath and District Parish Council's business meetings, due to the ongoing situation with Covid 19 meetings are currently being held at Bickley Coronation Hall.

Dates for 2022 – 23 meetings are:-

Thursday 5th May 2022	-	Bickley Coronation Hall
Thursday 7th July 2022	-	Bickley Coronation Hall
Thursday 1st September 2022	-	Bickley Coronation Hall
Thursday 3rd November 2022	-	Bickley Coronation Hall
Thursday 5th January 2023	-	Bickley Coronation Hall
Thursday 2nd March 2023	-	Bickley Coronation Hall

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