

Chairman's report - Malpas Parish Council 2018/19.

Malpas Parish Council has had relatively stable membership over the last twelve months. Unfortunately, several members have been unable to attend on a regular and consistent basis.

May 2019 sees the start of the new Parish Council. Eight people were previously on the Council and there are six new members. All fourteen Councillors were elected unopposed and will serve for the next four years.

Links with other organisations.

In 2018/19 the Parish Council did its best to represent the interests of all villagers, this specifically with regard to actions required by Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC). The Parish Council have asked CWaC to attend to a range of matters, from increasing car parking capacity, to Highways issues, including the state of our roads.

Unfortunately, we have made little progress with various important matters, car parking in particular, some responses from CWaC have been totally inadequate and frustrating.

This lack of progress is despite close working with the Malpas Ward Councillor who has been very supportive.

Cheshire Police have continued to liaise closely with the Parish Council; this has included addressing concerns about anti social behaviour, of a number of young people. However, police and other resources are limited and day-to-day responses from Cheshire police can be very slow. The Assistant Chief Constable who attended a recent Parish Council meeting gave an undertaking to address our concerns and those of colleagues in neighbouring Parishes. We will continue to work with others to address the issue of anti social behaviours.

Planning.

As usual many planning applications have been reviewed and comments submitted. In general these representations have been listened to and reflected in decisions made by CWaC.

However, several large scale developments have been processed very slowly, these included The Red Lion and the development on Chester Road which includes a Community Health Hub. Happily The Red Lion is now being developed and will be a real asset to Malpas when completed.

In 2019/20 the Neighbourhood plan should be reviewed as a priority, this to give us further control over future developments.

Finances

As in previous years our Clerk has effectively and efficiently administered the financial responsibilities of the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to increase the precept for 2019/20 and with income from the Community Infra Structure levy; the Parish Council's financial position looks reasonably healthy. However, additional capital funding may be required to resolve the villages car-parking problems.

Grants to a range of local community were made during the year, these to support local initiatives. The Parish Council greatly appreciate the tremendous contributions made by so many individuals and groups. The 'Community Spirit' of Malpas was given full focus in 2018 when Malpas commemorated 100 years since the end of World War One.

Allotments

The development of part of The Mosslands as allotments has continued and now all allotments are rented and many are productive. There is potential to create a number of additional plots at some point. In turn the planned development on Chester Road includes some provision for allotments.

The appearance of Malpas.

After a great deal of discussion we finally have new attractive boundary signs to welcome all to the village. These appear to have been well received and we are grateful to St Oswald's Church for their support and partnership with this initiative.

The Parish Council will continue to work to enhance and improve the overall appearance of the village; more new planters will be arriving shortly. The voluntary efforts of all who took part in the village clean up was appreciated and will hopefully be repeated regularly. The Parish Council will support this work.

The Future agenda for Malpas Parish Council

The new Parish Council will want to take time to review existing priorities and establish a work programme. However, the need to increase car-parking capacity and resolve traffic congestion remains a top priority, CWaC will be pressed to ensure this is addressed without further delay.

John Webb Chairman Malpas Parish Council - May 2019