

# Malpas Parish Council



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

What a year – for the world, our nation, the local community and our families.

And times have been difficult, too, for Malpas Parish Council which exists to be the democratic voice of this village and its residents, but people in the organisations that we need to influence have stopped listening to us.

This has proved to be especially true of Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (CWaC) officers. The authority only came into existence in 2009 but it is hard to imagine that any of its predecessors ever had such poor working relationships with the PC in our +100 year history.

It has already taken over a year to provide more dog bag dispensers and even longer to instal new bus shelters. Following the collapse of the churchyard wall and closure of Church Street in January the PC has used every means available to it to press CWaC to give priority to the repairs – as yet the road remains closed both ways. What realistic hope is there of having the much-needed additional car parking when the CWaC budget has a trifling £88,000 allocated to the project in the current financial year?

But other organisations have been no better. Cheshire Fire Service removed many of the public car parking spaces at the back of the Fire Station without the courtesy of any discussions in advance – despite there being long-lived local residents who believe the Parish Council donated the land on which it stands!

And frequent reorganisations of the health authorities have contrived to prevent meaningful progress on the proposed Chester Road medical centre – and just recently the PC has been informed that this is no longer to happen. I commend Councillors John Webb and Chris Whitehurst for championing this project.

Influential people in the private sector have behaved no better: the PC has been pressing for months for a meeting with Bovis representatives to raise various issues on behalf of local residents – but still we wait for a date.

It is to be hoped that a return to face to face meetings of the PC and a full quota of 14 elected Parish Councillors – welcome Morgan Granger, Gordon McGregor Reid and Sherrie Roberts – together with the leadership of a new Chairman/woman will be harbingers of better times ahead for everyone.

I would urge each of us as individuals to use our various talents to best effect by contributing in ways that will help to make a difference. I wish my successor every success and intend to continue playing my part when I can.

Adrian Waddelove

Chairman