



PAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman's Report by Cllr Martin Slinger April 2021

H.R.H. Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh – It is with great sadness that we learnt of Prince Philip's death this month. We appreciate all the support he gave to our country over many decades with the utmost dedication and distinction. He was a much-loved member of our monarchy and will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the people of the Parish of Painswick, I wish to convey our deepest sympathy and thoughts to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the rest of the Royal Family at this terribly sad time.

Pandemic – this last year has proved most challenging but also most rewarding. The Communities willingness to help each other has been nothing short of marvellous. The Painswick Covid Community Support Group was formed in record time; getting their message out there so no-one would be left to cope alone and assistance was just a phone call away. Their service proved so invaluable that they decided that they would continue even after the first lockdown had been eased and renamed themselves the Painswick Community Support Group. The Members have undertaken DBS checks and data protection training, to give even more reassurance to their users.

We have all had to learn to do things differently and adapt; like many working from home we have become acquainted with remote meetings, with the odd "you're on mute" being called out every so often. We look forward to getting back to some normality soon with physical meetings due to resume shortly.

Councils Staff – the staff have all shown their resilience over the last year again with the Clerk and Deputy mainly working from home, although I am pleased that the Town Hall Office is now open again on Wednesday and Friday mornings. We had some excellent news that Lucas Edney our apprentice groundsman has passed his NVQ 2 in Horticulture. Lucas became an invaluable member of the team, so has now become a permanent member of staff; our sincere thanks to George Hodder for his patience and mentoring skills.

Cotswold National Landscape and Cotswold Wardens – our thanks to both the Cotswold National Landscape and the Cotswold Wardens for promoting two new accessible walks; general improvements were made to the footpaths including changing the stiles to gates. Maps have been produced (online at available from the Tourist Information Centre), with a nice new noticeboard showing these walks situated in Stamages Lane car park.

New Council Logo – with the new noticeboard for the footpath project (see above) and the Community Support Group, it became obvious that our old logo was of poor image quality, therefore the Council took the opportunity to develop a new modern look and our thanks to Mia Manninen for doing a splendid job in such a short timeframe.

Ash Tree Dieback – this disease has affected the majority of Ash Trees in Gloucestershire and unfortunately has resulted in large scale felling across Painswick and the County. The Parish Council have a Tree Management Plan in place for the Plantation and despite the felling the wood is in good condition. The Council has donated several new trees to the Hambutts Field Trust.

Wards – The Ward Councillors have continued to work towards assisting with their individual issues although many of these are shared across the whole of the Parish, especially highways issues, speeding and fly tipping.

War Memorial and surroundings - the War Memorial is a listed monument and the Council are investigating what can be done to safeguard and make improvements. A public consultation will be launched shortly and the Council would welcome the communities input, this will be advertised in The Beacon.

Elections – Parish, District, County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner elections are to take place on Thursday 6th May 2021.

The Council have said a fond farewell to Ian James, Dawn Dart and Mike Fletcher who are greatly missed but we wish them all well.

Uncontested elections have already been declared for the Wards of Edge (myself, Cllr Martin Slinger), Sheepscombe, Cllr Roey Parker and welcome to Kate Amos. Slad, Cllr Andy Cash. There is still a vacancy in the Slad Ward, so would welcome someone from that area to be co-opted. Painswick Ward will be going to the ballot box and I extend my best wishes to my fellow Councillors.

Appreciation - firstly, on behalf the Parish of Painswick a huge thank you to everyone who has helped the wider community through the Pandemic; the wonderful staff of the NHS, teachers, emergency workers, retail staff, carers, refuse collectors, delivery drivers, volunteers and those involved in the vaccination programme.

I also extend my thanks to:

- Painswick Community Support Group
- Painswick Beacon Conservation Society/Beacon Clearance volunteers
- Cotswold Wardens
- The volunteers who manage the Christmas Lights
- The Beacon magazine
- Tourist Information Centre
- The Neighbourhood Warden, Simon Jarvis
- PCSO Debbie Collicott
- Our Clerk, Roy Balgobin, Deputy Clerk, Irena Litton, our Groundsman, George Hodder and Junior Groundsman Lucas Edney
- All the Members of the Public who have given neighbourhood support.
- Any finally, my sincere thanks to all my fellow Councillors for their efforts and support.