



RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

26th APRIL 2021

The Chairman's Annual Report this year is truly unique in so many ways. As far as I know it will be the first to:-

1. cover a two year period
2. report on Council activities during a pandemic
3. report on holding Council meetings virtually (via an internet link-Zoom)
4. be presented to the Annual Parish Assembly meeting virtually

Needless to say, ones memory not being what it was, has meant looking back through two years of Council minutes to try and piece together all that we have actioned during this period. I offer my sincere apologies in advance for any credits due that I have overlooked or for any notable omissions. I have no doubt that the Chairpersons of the Finance, Planning, Playing Field and Media Sub-Committees will cover many areas in which we have been involved.

Following the local elections held in May 2019 eight Councillors were elected unopposed which left two vacancies to be filled. At the first meeting I was honoured to be re-elected as Chairman with Cllr. John Sudbury serving as Vice-Chairman. Cllrs. Tunde Musa and Roger Munn were welcomed as newly elected Cllrs. Following normal selection procedures Cllrs. Brian Friar and David Carter were co-opted to fill the two vacancies, our 'gang' of ten was complete.

Some items have been on our Agenda for the two last years, (and before that), and still await a satisfactory outcome.

The building site known as 56 Southam Road continues to blight the village. This has appeared in Council minutes since July 2017. The matter now rests with the legal departments of the WCC and WDC, as the Parish Council has exhausted its avenues of discussion.

The Traffic Management proposals document, which covers issues such as, pedestrian crossing on A425, crossing Offchurch Lane by the Bovis site, safer routes to school, speeding traffic, central refuges at wide junctions (Lewis Rd, Kingshurst), dropped kerbs, double yellow lines, anti-social parking, making the bus stop opposite the end of Lewis Rd more accessible, has been with Warwickshire County Council Highways since April 2019. I think it would be fair to say that not one of our objectives has been achieved. It has been a case of 'the manual or computer says no!' Having said that, there is a chink of light at the end of this very long tunnel in, as much that we have been given the opportunity to discuss our issues with Officers from WCC. We would prefer this to take place face to face so it will be when Covid regulations allow.

Another long running issue, the status of Public Right of Way W123, is also with the appropriate legal department of WCC.

These appear to be three simple matters, but they have taken up a great deal of time by all concerned and remain live cases.

Further details can be found in Council minutes, filed on our website.



RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

S106 / Community Infrastructure Levy Contributions

This is one area in which I am able to report positive results. After a somewhat uphill struggle we have received a CIL payment from the Bovis 1 site, and two 'Open Space' contributions, one from the Leam View development and one from the Old Lodge site.

A financial agreement between WDC and the Parish Council, in respect of the 'Off-site Play area' (the playing field) contribution, from the A C Lloyd development, is at present being negotiated.

Again, details on these subjects can be found in the Council minutes, filed on our website.

After 4½ years the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Plan is at the referendum stage. Villagers are being asked to vote on the Plan on May 6th. The Council recognises the tremendous amount of work that has gone into getting the document to this stage. On behalf of the Council I offer a sincere vote of thanks to Olly Aries, Chairman of the Group, to Cllr. Friar, the Council's representative on the group, and to all the group for the work and hours that they have put in to the Plan.

The Media committee, formed during 2018/19, has rapidly come of age during the last two years. Firstly, a totally new website was created and is still in the process of development. Secondly, Covid-19, (Corona Virus), arrived on our shores and a global pandemic was declared. Cllr. Friar and many others formed a Covid support group, which was kept busy for many months and is still in operation today. Cllr. Friar will no doubt mention this in his report. I extend my sincere thanks and those of the Village as whole to this wonderful group of volunteers who helped so many, and still do when requested, through these unprecedented times.

The arrival of this catastrophic virus has changed our way of life. As regards the Parish Council this has meant adapting to having meetings virtually, corresponding with Authorities by email, no face to face meetings etc., the list goes on. Not the ideal situation when trying to keep a Parish Council running smoothly. I believe that, as a body, we have made an excellent job of keeping things as near to normal as possible.

On a much brighter note, the Council did manage an official engagement prior to the first 'lockdown' last year. I did receive a sapling grown from the famous 'Cubbington Pear Tree', and kindly donated by the Cubbington HS2 Action Group. This was duly planted in the playing field during March 2020. The adjacent plaque informs Villagers of the origins of the tree; it also recognises the 38 years public service given to the Village by Henry Marriott.

The last twelve months have been extremely difficult for all of us. Because of these circumstances I could not have fulfilled the role of Chairman without the full support and cooperation of my fellow Councillors on Radford Semele Parish Council. For that support I offer my heartfelt thanks.

I would like to thank our County and District Councillors, Wallace Redford and Valerie Leigh-Hunt for representing us during the past two years.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank our Parish Council Clerk, David Leigh-Hunt, without whose support and guidance we, and especially myself as Chairman, would have struggled to fulfil our duties as elected representatives for Radford Semele Parish.

Council, I table my report.

Stan Sabin
Chairman, Radford Semele Parish Council