FRIDAYTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR’S REPORT 2020 /2021

Tom Hemesley

Clearly this year has been dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic, and as such has been a very strange year for the Village and for the Parish Council.

Meetings have been virtual all year, and while villagers have been invited to join us on “Zoom” no one has chosen to do so. Clearly people have had other priorities, however I do not believe that the virtual format of meetings is particularly inviting, and we will be glad to return to face-to-face meetings as soon as possible. We have been asked our views on using Virtual Meetings in the future by Sir Greg Knight, and our response has been, that in certain circumstances virtual meetings can work well, they should not permanently replace physical meetings.

Clearly it has not been possible to host any events this year, including, sadly, Festive Fridaythorpe. While some villagers were saddened by this and wondered whether we could adapt the event in some way to be Covid-safe, the decision was taken that we would prefer to cancel the event than to do it half-heartedly. One of the highlights and reasons for these events is the opportunity they afford for villagers to get together and in a pandemic this just would not have been possible. We will continue to monitor Government and Local guidance, and hope to run Festive Fridaythorpe for Christmas 2021

The Pandemic has also prevented us from organising our usual “Village Tidy-Up Days”. However this has not stopped councillors and villagers doing their bit to improve the village. Cllr. Prendergast has planted some trees on the grass at Wolds View which will hopefully grow to provide a lovely feature in that area. We have replaced one of the picnic benches on the green and removed one that was getting dangerously rotted. We have also started looking at what can be done to address the varying water-levels on the pond, and Cllr. Hynes has sought professional advice, which we will be looking at next year. We have also seen villagers collectively come together to build and launch the “Muddy Duck” on the pond, I feel this is a lovely feature for the village and has already been featured on the BBC!!

At Last we have seen movement at the pub. After our campaign to influence the owners to do something with the building, it has now been sold and is being renovated. It will be open later this year (Pandemic permitting)

Other things to note from this year are: We had to choose between losing one of the village defibrillators, or adopting it ourselves, we have chosen the latter and budgeted for it’s ongoing maintenance. We have purchased (for a nominal sum) the Phone Box from B.T. and we will be looking for uses for this. We have also made the decision not to adopt the Bus Shelter from East Riding for a number of reasons, but we will monitor and deterioration carefully.

As I said at the start, this has been a very strange year, and I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors, the Parish Clerk and all villagers for getting Fridaythorpe though it.

Tom Hemesley