

Cropwell Bishop Parish Council Chairman's Report 2024-2025

My last serving year as a Chairman has not brought any eye-openers from the previous two years as we have still endured the backlash from Covid and many other scenarios which have upset the World in general. Last year's attendance at the Annual Electorate Meeting was disappointingly low again and hopefully this will turn at some stage in the future, maybe, when someone comes up with a solution to the unknown problems.

My thanks go out to the many helpers who tirelessly devote their personal free time to helping and creating the various activities which are held at their respective venues. Those people know who they are and know that the gratitude from myself and the Village goes without saying for what seems like endless commitment to "keep it going" over many years.

I would also like to thank the Parish Council whose task is to try to steer the Village through its various courses, sometimes pleasurable, but many times frustrating. These are people who give their spare time, for free, to tasks which sometimes appear to be futile, but to some residents may be critical. Decisions also have to be taken on local issues, and as I have stated before, we cannot please everyone all the time, so if you feel that you are in a position to help in making those decisions, please step forward.

A big thanks to Jan Towndrow, the Parish Clerk, who has shown me on many occasions that it is never simple or straightforward to answer and respond to residents' requests. We have had some hilarious moments and some very stressful ones too, but all par for the course, evidently.

Many things have been happening again around the World with several wars still raging, which to us seem far removed, but for those involved they are at crisis level with no resolve, no matter who tries to intermedicate. America, like GB, made a bed for itself with their own crazy (other opinions may differ) ideals and now the World seems poised to react to the policies which the USA wishes to impose to the rest of the trading World. This will no doubt have its effect financially on GB, which in itself is struggling with what to do right, for doing wrong. Sometimes this has a similarity to the Parish Council's tasks in what it is supposed to do and what is supposed to happen, however, what it actually can do and what can actually happen does not always turn out for the best in the public's eye.

As a Village generally we have watched the building of many new homes, seen new residents integrate within our community, and so there have been thoughts as to what can be done to make some changes and revitalise that good old community spirit. We have the events calendar showing the same activities regularly happening throughout the year including the Gardening Club, Allotments, Church mid-week, Saturday Cafe, etc. The decision has now been made by your Parish Council to hold the Picnic in the Park every two years to enable another main Village event to be created to alternate with the much enjoyed long standing family event. The CB Memorial Hall committee has tasked itself to create a "Summer Fete" style event on the Playing Field in July so please give them your help and support to initiate this bi-annual event.

On the subject of the CB Memorial Hall the sad news that was received regarding the tragic death of Danny Loft, who ran TLF football "academy" set up on the CBMH Playing Field, was devastating. This was an activity that gave new vigour to the use of the Playing Field on a Saturday morning and a side benefit was that the cars parked along Nottingham Road acted as a short-term traffic calmer. Hopefully there could be a revival of this or

similar activity with Holly (Danny's wife) and two coach colleagues who could be looking to set something up once again.

The rebuilding of the Hall project is moving steadily forward and hopefully this year it will gather momentum with fundraising events and a lot of strategic planning by engaging with professionals to take the complex process through to completion. The Village has gone through processes in the past whereby it might have appeared that this was going to happen straight away and appeared to grind to a halt. This has not been the case as there are various staged developments that have to be set in place before each next step can be taken, plus there is always the added issue of engaging people who are interested enough to try and maintain some forward momentum. It is now at a stage whereby many key and positive elements are in place to enable this next critical set of stages for the direction of the rebuild. It is definitely on the way, but will take some years, not months, to achieve its objective and full support is needed from the Village to drive this much needed and long-awaited outcome.

Collectively our Village needs to bring back to the community some form of centralisation where once again residents can brag that they held their family celebrations, mingled alongside their neighbours, and enjoyed sharing in the fun times with likeminded people.

Let's learn to use Social Media as a platform to advertise the good that is being done throughout the Village by a small number of residents who really do care, and not just use it as a means to hyper criticise people's ideas, just because it doesn't fit into their criteria.

There are a lot of good people in this Village who at least are trying their best, giving away their time for free, to pull the community and its spirit back together. We do not ask for the clock to be turned back, as that should not be the goal. Instead, we ask for more people to bring their ideas to the table, but don't just leave them there, follow them through with greater personal involvement and please just don't expect it all to be done by others.

My resignation from the Parish Council once the Annual Parish Council Meeting has opened in May, and new Chairperson appointed, has been given with somewhat of a heavy heart as I do like a challenge! However, I feel that my time needs to be spent with more personal family issues and it also somewhat releases me to be more active in other quarters that require my skills without any direct connection to the Parish Council. I do hope that somewhere in the very near future Cropwell Bishop will become, once again, a collective thriving community.

Cllr. Lacey
Chairman – Cropwell Bishop Parish Council