

RUSTINGTON PARISH MEETING

MINUTES: of the (remote) Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 20 May 2021

PRESENT: Rustington Parish Councillors J Street (In the Chair), J Bennett, Mrs C Broomfield, M Broomfield, J Ceiriog-Hughes, M Clayden, Mrs A Cooper, A Cooper, Mrs P Gregory, R Grevett, Mrs S Partridge, Ms M Revell, D Rogers, G Tyler and P Warren, Mrs C Ward, Ms R Costan, Mrs C Harris and Mrs E Lamb (Rustington Parish Council), County Councillor Dr J Walsh, District Councillors S Gunner and W Tilbrook, P Cavell (Rustington Residents Association), A Gess (Woodlands Table Tennis Club), D Herbert (Rustington Otters Youth Football Club), Reverend N Loveless (St Peter & St Paul Parish Church), Mrs L May (Rustington Short Mat Bowls Club) and Inspector J Parry (Sussex Police)

APOLOGIES: Rustington Parish Councillor Mrs K Callaghan, County Councillor R Elkins, Ex-County Councillor D Purchase, District Councillors R Bower, T Chapman and P Kelly, PCSO O Godfrey and PCSO H Pipkin (Sussex Police)

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

Prior to the commencement of the formal business of the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed those present and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the Meeting, which he said was his duty to Chair.

The Chairman said that the Meeting was a Meeting of the Electors of the Parish, however, all members of the Public and Press were welcome to attend, and any matters affecting the Parish may be discussed and that West Sussex County Councillors and Arun District Councillors had been invited to attend.

The Chairman then advised that the Meeting would be being recorded (audio) via Microsoft Teams, for the purpose of ensuring clarity for the Minutes. He said that the recording would be dispensed with as soon as the Minutes had been approved by the Council at the next Meeting.

He also said that as the Meeting was being held remotely and it was not, therefore, possible to verify that anyone in attendance was an Elector of Rustington, no resolutions would be being considered.

Before commencing with the formal business of the Meeting, the Chairman said that he would be grateful if those Parishioners, members of the Press and members of the Public, could sign in in the 'Chat' facility, giving their names, house number and post code, or if representing a local Group or Organisation, the full name of that Body.

The Chairman concluded by advising those present that if they wished to pose a question at the appropriate point in the Meeting, they should indicate their desire to do so by clicking on the 'raised hand' icon in Microsoft Teams or by placing a message in 'Chat'.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 11 April 2019 were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman, Councillor Street, reported on the activities of the Parish Council during the preceding year. A copy of this Report is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

4. AUDITED STATEMENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The Meeting received the Audited Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors, Moore East Midlands, had stated that the information contained in the Council's Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention to give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Clerk said that these Accounts were available for inspection in the Council Offices.

5. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021 AND 31 MARCH 2022

The Meeting received a Report from Councillor Tyler, Chairman of the Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee, on the Council's finances for the years ending 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022. A copy of this Report is attached and forms a part of these Minutes.

6. REPORT FROM SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Jason Parry, Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team and Police Link Officer for Deaf People, to the Meeting.

Inspector Parry said that he had been appointed as the Arun District Inspector with effect from April 2020.

Inspector Parry advised that PCSO Pipkin had produced the following Report, which he then presented to the Meeting:-

Crime figures from 01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021 for Rustington East and West combined:

553 Crimes which is down 66 from last year. Broken down as follows:

- 42 Burglary - down 5
- 22 Vehicle Crime - down 6
- 78 Criminal Damage - up 18
- 109 Theft - down 42
- 47 Alcohol Related Crime - down 17
- 87 Public Place Violent Crime - down 44
- 138 Domestic Crime - up 19
- 30 Non crime after investigation

Incidents of Note:

Between 23/03/2021 - 08/04/2021 - Jericho's Sweet Shop was reported to have had damage to the rear of the premises. It is believed that this was an attempted break in

30/03/2021 - Flowers of Rustington, Ash Lane was broken into via the rear of the premises. **Store Properties have been contacted for their information and contact made with Rustington businesses to make them aware**

05/05/2021 - Several calls from residents in Woodlands Avenue, Albert Road and Fircroft Crescent saying their cameras and Ring Doorbells were activated in the early hours of 05/05/21. Footage shows someone jumping fencing and going through side gates to get into the back of the properties. A resident of Fircroft Crescent later reported a break in to their garage. **Arun Response Team have been contacted for consideration for police patrols in Rustington during the night**

*04/05/2021 - Rustington Allotments, Conbar Avenue - Incident of poison being laid and the bodies of 2 foxes found. Community tension has been very high after a petition has been shared on Facebook which has resulted in abusive comments and false accusations. **Sussex Police Rural Crime Team are investigating and PCSO Hannah Pipkin is aware and has also been dealing***

Current Priorities:

1. *Romanian beggars in The Street, Rustington*

Police patrols and multi-agency work continues with these Romanian individuals. There are 7 Romanians in this group that are housed under the winter bed provision in Brighton. 6 of the 7 have now agreed to start the process of returning back to Romania on a voluntary scheme

2. *Anti-social behaviour in Woodlands Recreation Ground, Woodlands Avenue, Rustington. Groups of youths gathering in and around the Recreation Ground causing a nuisance, also reports of these youths on motorbikes*

3. *Foot patrols of Conbar Avenue Allotments*

Reported Activity:

Reports of boy racers using the A259 between Sainsbury's roundabout and Bodyshop roundabout

Reports of possible drug dealing in a number of places within Rustington. Intelligence is currently being collated for any Police activity that may be needed

Any Other Business:

Re-opening of Littlehampton Police Station: The Police Station in East Street, Littlehampton will re-open for officers from Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team. The officers who cover the Littlehampton area will be based at this station from Monday 12 April. Police response officers however will still be based at Bognor

*Police staffing for Rustington: PCSO Hannah Pipkin remains your local officer however is still on restricted duties due to health reasons. It is unlikely that PCSO Becks Bernier will be returning due to ill health so there is now currently a PCSO vacancy. **As of May 202, PCSO Owen Godfrey is now the second PCSO for Rustington and will be in contact with you soon to introduce himself if he hasn't already***

Inspector Parry then responded to a question raised by County Councillor Dr James Walsh regarding a major issue of concern, namely Electric Scooters. He said that the use of Electric Scooters on the public highway was illegal, but this was currently a countrywide problem of which all Police Forces were aware and were actively working on ways in which this very serious issue could be dealt with as effectively as possible. He concluded by saying that he would encourage members of the public to report any persistent bad use of these scooters by individuals either online or via the telephone to '101'.

The Chairman then expressed his thanks and appreciation to Inspector Parry, on behalf of the Meeting, for taking the time to attend.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Meeting received the following Reports from the County and District Councillors:-

(a) County Councillor Dr James Walsh on behalf of ex-Councillor Daniel Purchase and himself

Councillor Dr Walsh reported on the following County Council issues on behalf of ex-Councillor Purchase, who had not stood for re-election on 5 May 2021, and himself:-

- *Extraordinary year for the Nation as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic - Response in respect of the Community Hubs was that they had been very well received, and had provided an excellent service in assisting vulnerable people to be able to cope during this unprecedented period, but especially for those sheltering and needing food delivery*
- *Pleased to see that the 'end of the tunnel' in respect of the second wave of the Pandemic was now within sight, but concerned that there could be an upsurge in the Autumn of 2021. Excellent local vaccination rates*
- *Extra funding has had to be spent on Children's Services, resulting in the County Council having to spend an extra £17M to improve the services to an acceptable level; and £5M extra funding for the Fire and Rescue Service, to ensure improvements are made - Both Services in 'Special Measures' with still a long way to go, although some improvements have been made in both areas*
- *Household Waste Recycling Sites - Now closed for two days per week - New booking system introduced - Has resulted in a 20% increase in fly tipping across the County*
- *1,500 Littlehampton homes in Arun District chosen for Pilot Scheme for Household and 'Smelly' Waste for six months - following which it will be rolled out to the rest of the Arun District and eventually across the County. Should result in much more recycling, and less landfill/incineration*
- *Repair of pot holes (which are worsening) and white lining (which is improving) continue to be priorities across the County*
- *Have enjoyed a busy 4-year term as Vice-Chair Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and served on Environmental and Communities, and Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committees, as well as Pensions Board. Following recent re-election looking forward to continuing to represent the Parishioners for the next four years.*

(b) Arun District Councillor Will Tilbrook

Councillor Tilbrook then proceeded to report on behalf of the District Councillors Rustington West as follows:-

- *Council Year 2020/2021 has been an eventful one for Arun District Council both due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the shifting political balance at the Council*
- *All Meetings since this time last year have taken place virtually over Zoom, with Meetings recorded and livestreamed to the Public*
- *This has largely gone smoothly however there have been some hiccoughs where the Meetings have not been recording or been recording when they shouldn't have. The digital nature of the Meetings has also led to them taking longer, with some full Council Meetings lasting over multiple dates*
- *The Pandemic has also limited the ability of the Chairman to undertake all of her functions - particularly those relating to fundraising and events. However, Councillor Amanda Worne has been able to fundraise from home undertaking challenges such as a 24-hour Marathon*

and a daily Push Up Challenge to raise money for her chosen Charities. She was also able to work with Councillor Alison Cooper to provide Christmas Trees for Zachary Merton hospital

- *Councillor Mrs Worne has been succeeded as Chairman by Councillor Jim Brooks who has been succeeded as Vice-Chairman by Councillor Samantha Staniforth*
- *The Administration over the past year has been busy leading the local fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic, providing support to the local community and businesses. The Council set up the cross-party Covid-19 Recovery Working Party to develop ideas for helping the local economy recover after the Pandemic*
- *The Council has also been able to continue its work on Regeneration Schemes in Littlehampton and Bognor Regis and is currently bidding for grants from the Government's Levelling Up Fund to further progress these Schemes*
- *The Council has also continued work on its Social Housing, securing more sites to build on and has continued to deliver valuable local services*
- *As a result of the District Council By-Election on 6 May 2021, the Conservatives gained two seats from the Liberal Democrats. This allowed them to have the numbers to form a new Administration as of yesterday with Councillor Shaun Gunner as the new Leader of the Council. The Liberal Democrats are now the opposition group on the Council*
- *The Council is also now operating under a Committee System as opposed to a Cabinet System with a new Constitution set up with key powers delegated to Service Committees not an Executive Cabinet.*

(c) Arun District Councillor Shaun Gunner

Councillor Gunner said that Councillor Tilbrook had covered most of the District Council issues he was planning to report on, but referred to the following:-

- *District Council initially fairly slow in responding to Covid-19 Pandemic with sluggish administration of business grants and poor communications, but subsequently provided excellent support for the Community Hub*
- *Improvements made to Cleansing Contract over Lockdown Periods, after poor performance in the Summer of 2020*
- *Change of political control at the District Council, already detailed by Councillor Tilbrook - Elected as Leader of the Council*
- *Priority as Leader to investigate and progress environmental opportunities for the District as a way of generating jobs, investment and tourism.*

(d) Arun District Councillor Alison Cooper

- *Conveyed thanks and appreciation to the Parish Council's Personnel, and in particular the Deputy Clerk, for the extensive amount of hard work and effort undertaken to secure funding from the Safer High Street Fund, and further anticipated funding from the Welcome Back Fund, for the benefit of Rustington, its Traders and its Parishioners.*

The Chairman conveyed his thanks and appreciation to all of the aforementioned Councillors for their most interesting Reports.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- (a) Vote of Thanks to the Parish Council for operating normally and most professionally throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic from March 2020, and for providing unceasing and most valuable, information, help and support at all times (**County Councillor Dr James Walsh**)
- (b) Thanks to the Parish Council for its continued hard work, support and provision of facilities at the Woodland Park Sportsfield for the Rustington Otters Youth Football Club (**Mr D Herbert**)

The Meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING - 20 MAY 2021
REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR JON STREET

Good Evening everyone and thank you for taking the time to attend this year's Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting.

I am delighted to be able to deliver my second Annual Report, which will cover the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, and the current financial year going forward.

Everyone's lives have continued to be significantly different to how they were prior to March 2020. Times are still challenging and of much concern for us all as the Covid-19 Pandemic continues, although with the roll-out of the Covid-19 Vaccination, there is now, at least, light at the end of what has turned out to be a very long tunnel.

For two years now, I have been honoured to hold the position of Chairman, and it has certainly been a most interesting, enjoyable, if somewhat thought-provoking time. However, I hope that I have always acted in the interests of the Community of Rustington during this period, and I pledge to continue to do so to the best of my ability until my current term of office ends on 24 May 2021, and beyond, in my role as an elected Member of the Parish Council.

I would to thank my Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs Alison Cooper, who has supported me unceasingly, and to all Members of the Council, who work diligently on a daily basis for the benefit of the Village, attending many Meetings during the year and often having to make difficult decisions. My appreciation goes to you all. Alison will assume the role of Chairman as of the aforementioned date.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of the Council's personnel, who have ensured that the Council's services have been delivered professionally and most effectively to an extremely high standard. This has continued throughout the current crisis and, although the Council's facilities have been closed for periods of time during the past year for the main 'Lockdowns', its services have continued to be delivered, wherever practicably possible, at all times. Most of the members of personnel had, up until very recently, been working from home, but with the re-opening of the Samuel Wickens Centre, Youth Centre, The Woodlands Centre and the Council's Offices, on 12 April, members of personnel have now returned to their workplaces. The Council continues to be most grateful to them all for their conscientiousness, flexibility and dedication.

Carole Ward, our Clerk, heads up the Team, and is ably supported by Rosie Costan, the Deputy Clerk, Caroline, Elaine, Nicky and Jo, at the Council Offices. The three members of personnel at the Samuel Wickens Centre, namely, Emma, Jules and Linda, provide an excellent 'front of house' information service and Claire, with the help of Jules, manages the Museum and all of its activities. Jim, the Council's Leisure and Amenities Officer, oversees the work carried out by the Council's external grounds contractors, and undertakes the day-to-day management and maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Sportsfield, together with many other ad-hoc duties. And last, but definitely not least, we have Bill, who is Caretaker for both the Youth Centre and the Samuel Wickens Centre. My thanks and appreciation go to all of the Team.

I would also like to thank the County and District Councillors who represented Rustington during the last financial year, and specifically, County Councillors Daniel Purchase and Dr James Walsh, together with District Councillors Shaun Gunner and Will Tilbrook, plus our own dual-hatted District Councillors Jamie Bennett, Mike Clayden, Alison Cooper, Pauline Gregory and, although not elected to represent Rustington, Andy Cooper, for actively ensuring that the Council has been kept up to date on all matters pertaining to our Village.

I would also like to convey my warmest congratulations to the recently elected West Sussex County Councillors for Rustington, namely Councillors Mrs Alison Cooper, Councillor Dr James Walsh and Councillor Roger Elkins.

I would now like to give you a very brief summary of how the Council operates, by letting you know what has taken place, and what is due to happen, during the year up to 31 March 2021, and the current year ending 31 March 2022.

I will also provide you with concise details of the roles of the Council's Committees.

During the year from 1 April 2020, projects and works included:-

- New boilers in The Woodlands Centre
- Major electrical installation upgrading works at The Woodlands Centre to comply with UK Regulations
- Installation of a new telephone system for the Council's facilities
- Comprehensive redecorating of areas in The Woodlands Centre and Samuel Wickens Centre
- Installation of new safety surfacing in the Woodlands Recreation Ground Play Area
- Major Roof Repairs at the Youth Centre
- Refurbishment of a large number of Public Seats along the Greensward, and in a number of roads in the east and west of the Village
- A further enhanced Christmas Lighting Scheme in the Village
- The continuation of the Number 12 Bus Service
- Installation of protective screens, hand-sanitisers and other safety equipment to ensure full compliance with the Government's Covid-19 Guidance at all of the Council's facilities

In 2020, the four Public Toilet Units in the Village again received excellent Awards in the Loo of the Year Competition, namely a Platinum Award for the Churchill Car Park Toilets and Gold Awards for the three other units.

Following the retirement of the Council's long-standing Public Toilet Cleansing Contractor, Biffa has recently been appointed to undertake this task. The Council has also decided to close the Public Toilet Unit in the Church Hall Car Park in The Street, initially for a period of 12 months, although it is anticipated that this will be a permanent closure. The other three units in Churchill Car Park, The Woodlands Centre and Broadmark Lane will all remain open on a 7 day per week basis, with longer opening hours in the Summer months. The Council will also be replacing the aged, but very well-used, Mobile Unit in Broadmark Lane, with a new, more aesthetically pleasing and up-to-date portable building, hopefully, in the next few months.

Unfortunately, last year, the Council's plans to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day from 8-10 May, the Littlehampton and District Lions Club Street Fayre and the Council's Allotments Competition were all cancelled in accordance with, and as a result

of, Government Guidance in respect of Social Distancing, Groups Gathering and the general adverse effects of the first 'Lockdown' period, in particular.

The Council's Annual Civic Thanksgiving Service, the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Community Carol Concert were also cancelled for the same reasons, but it is very much hoped that some, if not all, of these Events will be able to take place this year.

And, now, moving on to the Council's Committees...

Finance and General Purposes

I would like to thank Councillor Graham Tyler, for his most important role as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Graham will be presenting his Report in respect of the Council's finances for the years ending 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021, to you later.

My thanks also go to the Members of this vital Committee.

Leisure and Amenities

Thank you to Councillor Mrs Alison Cooper who is Chairman of this very important Committee which is responsible for the majority of services provided by the Council, including the Public Toilets, Public Seats, Noticeboards, Street Maps, Beach and Bus Shelters, some Street Lighting, Grass Cutting in the centre of the Village, the Planting, Design and Maintenance of the Floral/Planted Displays plus any other associated functions.

The Youth Centre and The Woodlands Centre are also managed by this Committee, as are the Woodlands Recreation Ground and Woodland Park Sportsfield. And, finally, the Committee is responsible for the Samuel Wickens Centre (incorporating the Community Hall, Museum and the Information Centre).

A very effective and hard-working Committee. Thanks must go to all of its Members, with such a wide range of areas of responsibility, they all have a most active and important role to play.

Planning

Much appreciation must go to Councillor Peter Warren for his most professional and informative Chairing of the Planning Committee.

The Committee is consulted on all Applications within the Parish by both the Arun District Council, as the Local Planning Authority and, in certain cases, West Sussex County Council.

Thanks to Peter and the Members of the Committee.

Allotments

I would like to thank Councillor Mrs Peggy Partridge, Chairman of the Allotments Committee, and the Committee Members, for managing the three Allotment Sites in the Parish.

Emergency Planning

Chaired by Councillor Ceiriog-Hughes, this Committee monitors the Council's Emergency Plan, and ensures that procedures are in place for the provision of The Woodlands Centre as a Rest Centre in the event of an emergency within the Parish.

The Committee agreed in 2020, to undertake a major review of the current Emergency Plan, with a view to incorporating an addendum to the Plan for use in connection with the Covid-19 Pandemic and any similar future emergency situations that might arise. It is anticipated that this review will be undertaken during the current year.

Thank you, John, and your Committee.

The Council is also represented on a number of external Bodies, and continues to have Working Parties looking at ways of improving the way we work.

As I am now at the end of my Report, can I thank you once again for your attendance at this Meeting tonight.

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING - 20 MAY 2021
REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE - COUNCILLOR GRAHAM TYLER

Thank you, Chairman. Good Evening Everyone.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report to you in respect of the Council's finances for the last financial year that ended on 31 March 2021 and for the current financial year ending 31 March 2022.

Just under two months into the new financial year, we look back at the past year, which was an extremely challenging time for the Parish Council's finances. However, in the true spirit of the Council, it managed to maintain all of the necessary services that it does every year, whilst ensuring that the health and safety of its personnel was at the forefront of its considerations. Whilst the majority of personnel members worked remotely from home, public and business telephone enquiries continued to be dealt with as swiftly as possible, with the Council's Emergency Mobile Telephone being manned 24-hours per day.

The Council's Facebook Page and Website also provided extremely comprehensive information, which was updated on an almost daily basis, regarding the available and accessible support services and Agencies, together with contact details for local shops, restaurants and other businesses, providing delivery, provision and takeaway services during the Lockdown and Tiered periods.

At this point, it would be remiss of me not to convey my thanks and appreciation to the Council's Personnel for working unceasingly throughout the Covid-19 crisis to ensure that all of its services have continued to be delivered, wherever possible. I would particularly like to thank Caroline Harris, the Council's Finance Manager/RFO, with whom, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, I have a close working relationship.

On a Budget, in the last financial year, that was obviously in decline, with no rental or hiring income being received, the Council managed to continue to provide, operate and maintain, the Public Toilets, Floral Displays, Bus and Beach Shelters, the War Memorial, the Woodlands Centre, Recreation Ground and Youth Centre, Samuel Wickens Centre, three Allotment Sites and the most impressive Christmas Lighting Scheme, provided in partnership with Store Property Investments Limited and the Rustington Traders, to mention just a few facilities and services.

A rolling programme of refurbishment of the public seats throughout the Village took place during the Spring and Summer months, a major refurbishment of the War Memorial was completed early in the year and the aged safety surfacing in the Woodlands Recreation Ground Play Area was replaced in its entirety. At the beginning of 2021, a large amount of expenditure was incurred as a result of necessary major electrical installation upgrading works being undertaken at all of the Council's facilities, including the Public Toilets.

And, following a three-month period of no service, with effect from July 2020, the Number 12 Bus Service resumed operating and continues to do so, courtesy of the four-way partnership between the Council, Compass Travel, Store Property Investments Limited and the Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

The sale of the Museum Site at Church Farm Cottages did finally reach completion in late February 2020. After all associated financial commitments had been settled and the Council's General Fund Balances replenished, an approximate net profit of £244,000.00 was achieved, the majority of which has now had to be ringfenced for capital projects. Whilst only a minimal amount of this has been expended to date, the Council has an extensive Wish List of projects, which includes:-

- A replacement Mobile Public Toilet Unit - Broadmark Lane
- A replacement Bus Shelter - Sea Lane and re-positioning and new surface for existing Bus Shelter - Station Road
- The refurbishment/upgrading of all areas, both internally and externally, of The Woodlands Centre, including a new, and more comprehensive, CCTV System
- The replacement of certain items of equipment in the Play Area - Woodlands Recreation Ground
- The refurbishment of fencing around Basketball Court/Kickabout Area and Play Area, Woodlands Recreation Ground
- The replacement of Fencing - North Field and southern boundary of Car Park, Woodlands Recreation Ground

The Council will be giving detailed consideration to all of these projects during the current financial year, and it is hoped that some will be able to be progressed with the funding available.

Taking account of the unprecedented period for the Council's operation which, it is anticipated, will continue for a major part of this financial year, it has maintained all of the seamless services that it provides, and will strive to continue to do, albeit far more shrewdly.

The Parish Council's 2021/2022 Precept has remained at the same level as that set for the last financial year, namely £690,000.00, which actually represents a very small reduction on the Annual Parish Council charge on a Band 'D' property in Rustington for the year 2021/2022, which is £113.06.

As far as I am concerned, the Parish Council continues to be most pro-active, providing excellent 'value for money', whilst always being mindful of the financial constraints it faces and the burden that its expenditure might place on its Parishioners.

I would like to thank all of my fellow Councillors for their continued efforts to achieve and maintain the objectives of the Council.

While the challenges facing the Council will continue and, it is anticipated, increase, I can give you my assurance that it will always do everything it possibly can to overcome these with the benefit to the local community always at the forefront of its objectives.

If any of you would like to discuss any aspect of the Council's finances, please do not hesitate to contact Carole Ward, the Clerk of the Council, who will be happy to make an appointment for you to 'meet with me' on Microsoft Teams or to speak to me on the telephone.

That concludes my Report.