Annual Parish Meeting report – 19th May 2021

Good evening,

Well, we have come to the end of a very difficult year with Covid 19 with all that we have had to do to keep safe in our community.

My first duty this evening is to inform you that sadly Peter Stephens, a previous Chairman of Sudborough Parish Council died on Tuesday. He had been very ill with cancer. Our sympathies go out to his partner of many years, Sue Stevens and I have let her know that if she needs anything, I would be happy to help.

Our meetings over the last year have had to be via Zoom which have presented us with its own challenges and we have had to try to deal with some very problematic issues amongst which are:

Flooding

Pathfinder III

Cowthick Plantation Development at Corby

Asset of the community

Telephone Box

Losing our Clerk, Sue Cook

The good news is that the Telephone box was finally completed and how nice it looks. Fermyn Woods Contemporary Art Group transformed it. They will look after it for at least another year and will maybe, change the exhibition at some point.

The thorn in our side was and is the Cowthick Plantation Development at the top of the A6116. Despite our protestations and representations, in writing, via Zoom, etc, the outline planning was granted. All we can do now is continue to put obstacles in their way. More on this in the Parish Council meeting.

The Asset of the Community order still stands for the Vane Arms which is in the process of being sold to Hawthorne Community Pubs. The sale is due for completion at the end of the month. We look forward to supporting Lucy Greenhead in her endeavours to make it work for us all.

Sadly, we lost our clerk, Sue Cook this year. She did a stirling job for us for which we have thanked her. Meanwhile I would like to introduce Adam Fox to you who has agreed to become our new clerk. So welcome to Adam. I am sure he will do a splendid job. I have already discovered his computing skills!

Finally, I have to report that I am stepping back from the chairmanship of the Parish Council. I have done it for the past five years and feel it is time to move on and let someone else take a turn. Jacqui has been my deputy for the last 3 years or so and I will nominate her to take over. She has experience now and I will be happy to give any advice as and when asked.

Thank you.

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