

**REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN,
COUNCILLOR RICHARD FONGE,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2020**

We all remember the two Ronnies famous sketch of the " Four Candles", well this has been the year of the four Chairmen, or should I say Chair.

Twelve months ago Chris Jackson resigned due to work pressure . Chris had lead the Council with great effect for two years, in a quite and efficient manner, and we thank him for all his efforts on our behalf. Troy Daniels then stepped up from the vice - chairmanship for a couple of months, before he too had to resign due to work commitments. So the Parish Council lost two of its younger members, highlighting the difficulty of serving your community whilst juggling a career and a young family. Our thanks to Troy for his valuable input, and on the completion of the installation of the defribalator, a task he took on and completed with great thoroughness. After the August break, Will Priestman took charge ,before my election in October.

Your Council has achieved all it has set out to do during the year, plus it has responded to other unspecified events.

Cllr Anna Faure has kept us informed of H S2 developments, and we have also appreciated the added expertise of Colin Wootton.

Troy Daniels, whilst no longer a Councillor, still maintains responsibility for the defibrillator.

Mike Harmon joined the council during the year but had to resign when he moved to Shropshire. We thank him for his sound input, albeit so brief.

Cllr Will Priestman has been responsible for the V.A.S scheme, and we have now speed signs moved back on Helmdon Rd, and await the solar powered speed sign installation. The full cost of £4,000 being met by the grant we applied for.

Will is also getting monthly updates from Sulgrave Manor to report back to Council.

An unexpected occurrence and a needless piece of vandalism was the destruction of the Tattersall bench up the Moreton road. Cllr Laura North took the responsibility of raising the funds for the replacement with the blessing and support of Mrs Tattersall and achieved in raising enough funds to buy a replacement, with an excess going to the Pocket Park funds

Cllr Neil Higginson once again supervised the grass mowing and trimming, and pavement widening. What a good job was done.

Two dog poo bins were installed at either side of Madam's close, in Little Street and Manor Rd, at the request of a resident and are emptied by volunteers. My thanks goes to Neil in getting them put up, and the notices above. Sadly dog poo is still to be seen around the village.

The Castle Hill was bought by the village and is now securely fenced, with a notice on the gate to inform. My thanks to Martin and his committee for their work in securing this outcome. The reporting back is always thorough and expansive in delivery!!

The pond in Pocket Park and surrounding area is much improved by the cutting back of the elder and the planting of trees, plus the dredging of the pond and the filling in of a large dip, now grassed over and mown. The wood has had some remedial work done and new planting, with some dozen trees. My thanks to the many of all ages who came and cleared scrub and planted the trees on that Saturday in January. A real community event.

The community of Sulgrave has responded to the lockdown by caring for those in need of help. The Shop has excelled itself in its service to us all. We are so fortunate.

In conclusion I would like to give a special thanks to Christine Coles for her guidance and consummate diplomacy, in what has not been the easiest of years.

Councillor Richard Fonge (Chairman)