

## Rope Parish Council Chairs Report 2020-2021

We have all been living in unusual times since the last Chair's report. The impact of Covid has stretched and tested everybody's resolve in trying to maintain as normal a life as possible while observing the Governments guidelines in keeping ourselves and others safe. For this reason, we have been unable to hold face to face meetings but have conducted these via Zoom.

The impact of a general lack of local spending on infrastructure and maintenance within our Parish by Cheshire East has been very apparent. The condition of our roads and footpaths have deteriorated together with the general maintenance of our area.

There is a proposed change to Parish boundaries. We must aim to ensure that our Parish remains separate and not be merged with other Parishes. We look to our Ward Councillor to assist and liaise with Cheshire East on this matter.

However, the relationship between the Parish Council and our Ward Councillor has not been as positive as the Parish Councillors expected, in terms of his non-attendance at our meetings and his lack of communication with the Parish. Therefore, our link with Cheshire East has been somewhat restricted. For example, Parish issues which are overseen by Cheshire East such as planning, overgrown hedges and other matters have not been adequately dealt with. We hope this relationship improves over the next twelve months.

It was recently brought to our attention that some Parish Boundary signs were missing. We have now purchased new signs, and these have been installed. Having these signs confirms the boundaries of the Parish of Rope to our residents.

We have purchased a new laptop for the Clerk with an upto date office package to assist her in her duties to our Parish.

Our Parish website has undergone improvement by Councillor Rob Hassall. Through his expertise and by the additional work he has carried out he has enhanced the websites features by making information available to residents in a more user-friendly format. In the future we hope to have a regular online newsletter.

Litter and dog mess unfortunately continue to be a problem within the Parish. In order to combat these problems to try and keep the area tidy we have obtained litter picking equipment and chalk paint to highlight dog mess on footpaths.

Our focus for the coming year is to look at how we can continue to improve our area. Additionally, the Parish Council should try to use some of our surplus funds for the benefit of our residents.

We must continue our efforts to ensure that Cheshire East provide a better service for our residents' post Covid. In this we hope our Ward Councillor will assist us as required. This is the way for our Parish to function cohesively in the future.

Lastly, I hope that we all respect the ethos of the running of a Parish Council in a non-political way so we can get on with matters arising in an open and fair manner.

Stefan Pyra

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021