

# **PLENMELLER WITH WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Parish Meeting on**

**Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**at Whitfield**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Following the slow winding down of the pandemic it was good to be able to start to return to normal with regular meetings held face to face in person.

The main noteworthy points to record during the year were as follows:

### **1. Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Board:**

The Council in principle supported the withdrawal of Melkridge Council from the Burial Board if this was legally permissible and cost free other than the resulting percentage share increase for our Council of the Burial Board precept, which was thought to be a total of c. £50-£100.

### **2. Local Transport Plan:**

- a. The promised widening of the C322 from the junction at Fell House to the Haltwhistle turn off seemed to be in some doubt due to the estimated cost of £1M. Councillors were still keen to see this work done even if this had to happen in stages over a number of years.
- b. Some re-surfacing of the road from Whitfield village to the school has been carried out.
- c. Highways agreed to a slow sign being positioned before the corner below The Laws but are delaying this until the resurfacing has been carried out.

### **3. Financial:**

The financial affairs of the Council have remained satisfactory during the year. The Precept was increased to £2,750 for 2022-23.

Some issues with malfunctioning of the speed signs were experienced during the year and Unipart serviced all 3 at a cost of c. £350 + VAT.

e. Records:

The Clerk kindly scanned three boxes of Council Minutes and deposited the originals at Woodhorn County Archive.

f. The Duke of Edinburgh:

A condolence card from the Parish was sent to HM The Queen following the death of The Duke of Edinburgh and £50 donated to The Duke of Edinburgh Charity Scheme. On a happier note Councillors agreed to purchase, along with other local parishes, Jubilee mugs to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. These will be handed out to the children at Whitfield School.

g. Vacancy:

There remains a vacancy for a Councillor to replace Councillor Marion Sowler.

Lastly as always, very many thanks to Councillor Hutchinson for all his help and support to the Parish and many thanks too to our Clerk Susan Saunders for her continuing efficiency in keeping us up and running so effectively.