CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2019/20

The year began with the existing parish councillors as the elections were deferred until May 2020 due to the formation of the new Buckinghamshire Council who were to hold their elections at the same time.

Sheila Cotton was elected Chairman and Geoff Sherley Vice Chairman for this year.

We continued to examine all planning applications for the parish and object where it is felt necessary and not in line with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and VALP.

In May 2019 the formation of Kingsbrook Parish Council was discussed and a petition sent to AVDC for a Clinical Governance Review to give Kingsbrook its own parish council and make Broughton Hamlet a Parish Meeting. This was agreed and ratified by the Shadow Buckinghamshire Council in January 2020 and will take place from May 2020. Bierton Parish Council will then cover Bierton village, Broughton Crossing and Oldhams Meadow.

We have continued to work with Barratts during the year and hope to continue to have representation on their Stakeholder Group.

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan continued throughout the year. The Steering Group did take a break at the end of 2019 but reformed again early in 2020. Several consultations have taken place with outside organisations and it is hoped this can progress again soon.

The Events Group helped organise the Bierton Festival to celebrate 100 years of the Recreation Ground in June in conjunction with Bierton School and other village organisations. They held a Front Garden Event which was very successful; another Fun Run; a film night; and a village quiz. They also helped with the Village Carolfest in December.

Both the Sports Centre and Jubilee Hall continue to be well supported with regular events and private parties, etc. It is also the home for large village events such as the School Fair and the Scouts Fireworks event.

A small upgrade to the children’s playground took place during the year and the cricket nets were up and running for the season. We have secured funding for an outdoor gym at the Recreation Ground.

We continue to attempt to improve the highways etc in the village and have got funding for a new footway on Burcott Lane to join up the existing with the new one to enable easier access to the school and Recreation Ground.

We are also exploring the provision of car parks in the village to serve the school, Jubilee Hall and Church as well as the Sports Centre.

Work on the Eastern Link Road continues and is still due to open in 2021, although this has yet to be confirmed. We have submitted suggestions for traffic calming in the village after this has opened, but these have to be discussed with the developers and the highways authority.

The school extension was completed in November and it is hoped that footway repairs and road resurfacing will take place very soon.

Due to the Coronavirus and all that entails, the parish council have been unable to meet since March but hope to start having virtual meetings in due course.

Once again elections for both parish councils and Buckinghamshire Council have been delayed yet another year until May 2021. Following this announcement, two of our longstanding parish councillors have resigned for personal reasons. Brian Robson who has been on the council for 25 years, most of it as either Vice or Chairman, and Geoff Sherley, who has also been on the council for over 5 years and was Vice Chairman for some of these. Brian was our planning expert while Geoff helped with our finances. They will be missed and we wish them both well in their ‘retirement’ and thank them for their input over the years. We will continue with our 7 existing members for the time being.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parish councillors for their help and input once again during the year. Special thanks to our Clerk, Jo Payne, who having found her feet is now a great asset to the council.

Thank you to all parishioners for their continued help and support in all areas.

Sheila Cotton

Chairman

June 2020