North Nibley Parish Council Annual Reports 2021

# Cllr. Ken Brown - Chairman https://webmail.visionict.com/api/mail/v1/users/clerk@northnibleyparishcouncil.org.uk/messages/SU5CT1g=.6943/attachments/2?wsid=c8937a189131400d90154a6a39f86f6c-0531b6c3f5b0464caefc7950d935da9d&csrf=fbcabdce639948729465e821a92c538f

I am Councillor Ken Brown, Chairman of the Parish Council.
I am responsible for obtaining conservation grants for the 5.8 acres owned by the Council on Nibley Knoll which is managed in conjunction with the Knoll Trust's 14 acres. This Grant helps towards Parish Council funds.
As Chairman I deal with issues that crop up and liaise with fellow councillors and parishioners.

This has been a difficult year for everyone caused by Covid 19 and it's associated restrictions. This has also impacted on the Parish Council's work and required the Council to meet by Zoom each month.

We are very fortunate to have a new clerk in Mandy Rossiter, who has kept us up to date in such  matters and become our Zoom master as well as all the other intricacies of Council work. We are very grateful to her and also to Councillor Rex Symons, who has helped her in her introduction to this work and who was acting Clerk in the interim when our former Clerk was off work,  before retiring due to ill health. Councillor Jane Burton has been a great help in dealing with the difficult transition when we were without a Clerk, liaising with our former Clerk to obtain some resolution as well as dealing with any HR issues.

Councillors David Purnell and Symons have worked hard investigating the problems with the Churchyard wall between St Martin's closed Churchyard and the Old Vicarage.
We are assessing quotes for the work required to be undertaken on the problems and hopefully this will be brought to a conclusion when that work is completed.

Councillor David Palmer has helped with so many activities in his role in St Martin's Churchyard, the Cemetery, and footpaths around the village. He has also  helped greatly with our budgets and various financial aspects.

We welcomed Councillor John Hay to the Council this year, who among other things is a Cotswold Warden, looking after footpaths, erecting stiles and
Way-markers
etc in the Parish. In this, and many other ways from his previous experience, John has proved already to be a great asset to the Council.

Among the 30 or so planning applications that have come before the Council to be considered  this  year was the proposal for 9 affordable and 7 market dwellings  on land to the West of Wotton Road. The Parish Council arranged a special Zoom meeting in February  to allow parishioners to express their views. Further opportunities for discussion and comment were also available at the February and April Parish Council Meetings.
The application was formally considered at the April Council meeting.  After lengthy discussion the Council, whilst confirming its support for the provision of Affordable  Housing in the Parish,  resolved to object  to the application principally on highway and traffic safety grounds. This objection, together with a number of other detailed considerations has been submitted to Stroud Planning who are responsible for deciding the application.
I would like to make special mention of Councillor Keith Larkin who has taken on an enormous amount of work with all of the planning applications and whose experience from a former life has proved invaluable.

The Council is continuing to look at speed awareness projects on the B4060 and we are hoping that ANPR cameras can be funded, when possible. This project has been delayed by County Highways and the Police whilst current ANPR cameras in a few Parishes in the County are evaluated.  Cllr Symons has been working on this.

We have had to postpone the annual clean up day again in 2021. We hope to reschedule this for later in the year. In the meantime we have had some young volunteers picking up litter as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award as their other volunteering projects were cancelled due to Covid.
We also appreciate that there are a number of caring individuals who give of their time to collect the litter left on the hill by visitors to the Knoll. Thank you all.

Our Neighbourhood Warden and the Police have been regularly contacted regarding the excessive and unsafe parking near the Cemetery caused by increased visits to the Knoll, again due to restrictions elsewhere.

The Council has awarded various grants to local organisations which are made at the Annual Parish Meeting. We hope you will hear later from the recipient organisations how their grant is to be used.

Jean Palmer, our Burial Clerk, continues to do an excellent job looking after the Cemetery and supporting bereaved families with their enquiries in a very sympathetic way. Jean has also taken on responsibility for keeping the island flower beds at the bus stop. They create a beautiful feature for our village. Thank you Jean.

Plans have been put forward by a resident for some new play equipment for young children. We are currently researching the feasibility of this and taking advice on the covenant restrictions on the playing field. We are also looking at possible sources of funding.

Once again this year the Councill has successfully fought to retain the two telephone boxes in the village. They provide a valuable emergency resource as well as featuring as good 'sign posts' on our country lanes.

The Parish Council continue to be responsible for the Cemetery, St Martin's closed Church yard, and the village Playing Field.
The Council also own 5.8 acres of land at Nibley Knoll, which is managed in conjunction with the Knoll Trust for which we obtain conservation grants to help with Parish Council expenses.

The Parish Council has been supportive of the Village Hub and commend highly the efforts of those who work so hard to keep this facility going and provide a service to the community.
At this point I would like to thank Theresa Eames and her team who have provided and delivered 1000 plus hot meals to those who have appreciated contact throughout Lockdown.

I have lived in the village since 1970 and find this a very special place to live.
After 19 years as a Parish Councillor I am retiring from the Council and would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and everyone in the village for their support. During those 19 years we have had a friendly collaboration of Councillors. I wish you every success for the future work of the Council.

# Cllr. David Purnell - Vice Chairman C:\Users\Dave\Downloads\IMG_4359.JPG

During 2020 I represented the parish council on the Stinchcombe Hill Trustees and the William Purnell Education Charity.

The Hill Trustees meeting was able to meet face to face during the brief time in which we were not in Lockdown, and secondly on a zoom call. The trustees continue to manage the hill with problems primarily caused by the increased footfall as a result of COVID-19. The trustees and their clerk were able to deal with this without too much problem, however, it has made it obvious that there is a greater need for a much improved website, and notice-boards prominently on the hill. These are in hand.

William Purnell education trust was unable to meet during 2020 and the small income will be held over until our next annual meeting.

# Cllr. Keith Larkin https://webmail.visionict.com/api/mail/v1/users/clerk@northnibleyparishcouncil.org.uk/messages/SU5CT1g=.6940/attachments/2?wsid=c8937a189131400d90154a6a39f86f6c-0531b6c3f5b0464caefc7950d935da9d&csrf=fbcabdce639948729465e821a92c538f

I have lived in the parish for almost 30 years and have been a Parish Councillor and enjoyed representing the local community for the last 10. During this time I represented the Parish Council for a number of years on the Recreation Field Trust and Management Committee.

I have supported the need for and provision of the village shop and community hub including the grant funding provided by the Parish Council as well as the scheme to bring the Nibley Knoll land into community control.

I support the need to provide some Affordable Housing within the parish provided this is available for people who have a local connection and if possible a small number of private dwellings to allow the downsizing of some residents wishing to remain in the parish.

Because of my professional training and background I have a particular interest in planning and environmental issues as they affect our beautiful parish situated as it is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Generally my aim is to protect as far as possible the special character of this area whilst maintaining and enhancing community provision and need. I have contributed to the Parish Council’s response on planning applications and on other planning matters including commenting on the Local Plan review and other policy matters.

 I will continue to work in the best interests of the Parish as a whole for the next four years and am approachable on matters which affect the Parish.

# Cllr Rex Symons

This year my role with the Council has been varied. With our former Clerk being off work for several months I, with the support of Dave Palmer, continued as Temporary Clerk until our new Clerk, Mandy Rossiter, was appointed in the summer. I have continued to mentor and support Mandy as she has quickly developed into the role.

My involvement as a Community Speedwatch member has been suspended due to Covid 19 and the various associated restrictions. It is hoped that these activities can soon resume.

Unfortunately plans to install ANPR cameras on the B4060 have been put on hold due to a decision by Gloucestershire Highways and Gloucestershire Police not to approve any further installations until a review is carried out on the existing cameras in a small number of parishes in the County. That review has been continuing for well over 18 months and there is little sign of any conclusion. Meanwhile I am keeping myself informed about the project.

# Jane Burton C:\Users\Dave\Downloads\image_67229953.JPG

What a strange year this has been for everyone and now when Zoom is the norm our next challenge will be COVID safe meetings in the village hall.

In the last twelve months I think that the thing that stands out to me the most is welcoming our new clerk Mandy to NNPC. I was  involved in preparing the interview questions and am certain that we made the right choice. Before NNPC had their own social media presence on Facebook I tried to encourage interaction with the Council when comments from Parishioners focused on matters such as parking by the school, speeding in the village and diversion signs when the B4060 was closed, asking contributors to message me through my own Facebook presence.  However I am delighted to say that after suggesting to the council and working with the clerk the council now have Facebook page which I am pleased to say is a success.

North Nibley has definitely suffered with an increase in traffic down Frog Lane on the occasions that the B4060 has been closed, this has been the cause of many complaints. Before the last closure myself and Councillor Symons worked closely with the utility company in charge of the road closure and subsequent signage to make sure the wording and positions of the signs were much improved than before.

Going forward my hopes for the next twelve months will be to work with the school and parents to improve the traffic situation around the school at drop off and pick up time and the subsequent local speeding issues at these times. I also would like to see the plans for a new play area move forward, this would be a great asset for the young children of the village.

I feel immensely proud to be able to make a modest contribution in a village where during the last twelve months the community spirit shown, has and continues to be outstanding.

# Cllr David Palmer https://webmail.visionict.com/api/mail/v1/users/clerk@northnibleyparishcouncil.org.uk/messages/SU5CT1g=.6938/attachments/3?wsid=c8937a189131400d90154a6a39f86f6c-0531b6c3f5b0464caefc7950d935da9d&csrf=fbcabdce639948729465e821a92c538f

Councillor since 2005

My responsibilities include:

* being the PC representative on the Tyndale Monument Trust
* checking footpaths and bridleways and reporting issues to GCC Rights of Way & Cotswold Wardens if I cannot resolve matters myself
* managing and taking part in the Speedwatch group (suspended due to Covid) andhelped to put up ‘20 is plenty’ signs with Councillor Symons

I also:

* take a keen interest in planning
* strim some footpaths and cut brambles & around the Jubilee tree etc
* help the Burial Clerk keep the Cemetery tidy
* remove many years of ivy growth from the Churchyard walls
* kept the Parish council up to date on broadband

I have also

* transcribed the cemetery record onto computer
* creating an up to date map of the cemetery
* maintained the northnibley.org.uk website
* converted baptism, burial and grave information for St. Martin's Churchyard and included a search facility on the website
* kept the council's financial affairs up to date while the previous clerk was on sick leave and until the new clerk was ready to take them over including quarterly bank reconciliations and preparing the budget for 2021/22
* Maintained the PC website while the previous clerk was on sick leave
* painted lines by the cemetery gate and installed a 'No Access to Monument' sign in conjunction with Councillor Purnell
* Attended road safety meetings