

# Dumbleton Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: David Roscoe  
2 Mews Cottage, St Peter's Lane, Dumbleton, Worcs WR11 7TL  
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## Annual Parish Report

5 May 2020

### Chairman's Annual Report

The councillors are as follows:

Jim Harmsworth Cowles (Chairman)

Richard Price (Vice Chairman)

Maggie Campbell

Damian Easter

Kate Hending

Kate Risdale

Tim Risdale

The year from May 2020 to May 2021 has been one of the most challenging times the world has known for many decades. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that the normal way of life and business disappeared to be replaced with new ways of working and living. At the time of writing, the UK's vaccination programme and "roadmap" out of lockdown appears to be on track and will allow all of us to start working towards a return to a form of normality.

In light of the enormous challenges faced by the parish residents, the Council places on record its thanks to everyone in our community who has volunteered to help those around them. It is a testament to the spirit in the parish that Covid-19 support groups appeared within days of the first lockdown measures being introduced. The selfless individuals who have assisted with food shopping, medical prescriptions and ensuring the general wellbeing of those in their community are owed a large debt of thanks from all of us.

The Council also wishes to pass on its gratitude to all of the key workers, especially those in the NHS, who have given so much time and effort, often at great personal cost, to ensure that the UK was not overwhelmed by the pandemic and that it can emerge from the last year in a strong position.

Against this backdrop, and all of the challenges it brought, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the Councillors for their time, commitment and willingness to work for the Parish in new ways and with continued enthusiasm.

As the first tier of government, it was important for the business of the Council to continue and while lockdown measures have been a challenge, I'm delighted to say that the Council has had a successful year under the circumstances.

One result of the pandemic measures meant that no Annual Parish Meeting took place in May 2020 so this Report will attempt to cover as much as possible from the last two years.

After elections in May 2019, the Council welcomed one new councillor, Damian Easter, and the return of experienced councillors, Maggie Campbell and Tim Risdale. The Council thanked outgoing members for their time, work and dedication to the parish.

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In the last two years, some of the work and initiatives the Council has undertaken include:

- The moveable Speed signs continued to be maintained and the operator has continued to work efficiently to move and maintain them
- Planning applications have been discussed at full Council meetings or extraordinary meetings and comments sent to Tewkesbury Borough Council
- The village green in Wormington, in total, completed its registration with the Land Registry and is now a parish asset
- A further dog waste bin was installed in Dumbleton
- Dog "glove" dispensers and notices regarding the law on dog fouling are being installed around the parish
- Thanks to a team of volunteers, the bench on the village green at Wormington has been fully repaired
- Risk assessments have been carried out on trees, benches etc in the Parish
- Weekly checks and monthly reports have been carried out on the defibrillators in each village in the Parish
- Repairs and replacement pads et al have been provided for each of the defibrillators
- New grit spreaders have been provided to Great Washbourne and Dumbleton
- Inspection and maintenance of the grit bins in the parish has been undertaken and a schedule for regular inspection put in place
- Launched a new website that is fully compliant with all accessibility regulations, as well as being mobile friendly, easier to use and aims to provide a better portal of information for parishioners who are online
- Responded to, and corrected errors in, GRCC's Parish Housing Needs Survey, November 2019
- Grants have been given to St Peter's Church in Dumbleton.
- Conditions of the roads and bridges etc in the Parish have been monitored and any dangers or required repairs have been reported to Highways and the subsequent actions are followed to completion. It is disappointing to note that there are still long-term issues with ponding and flooding in some areas of the parish, but the Council is actively working with the relevant departments to resolve these.

All of the above and more, along with the Council's continuation of business during the pandemic measures, would not be possible without the Parish Clerk, David Roscoe.

Dumbleton Parish Council is exceptionally fortunate to have a Clerk who is legally qualified and is able to provide sound legal and procedural advice to ensure that the Council does not make any missteps or unknowingly take any actions that could bring it into disrepute. David provides very efficient administrative management to the Council and ensures the Council is appraised of all budgets and costs. As a new Chairman, it has been invaluable for me to be able to refer procedural questions to him and I pass on my personal thanks.

Notwithstanding the background of Covid-19, David has continued to perform the role of Parish Clerk while under extremely testing and difficult personal circumstances. That he has done so with no discernible difference to his approach to the role speaks volumes of his professionalism and commitment to the Council. Without his efforts, the Council would not be in such a good position and I know all Councillors will join with me in passing on our immense gratitude for all of his work.

Jim Harmsworth Cowles  
Chairman