

Chairmans Report March 2022

Since my last report quite a lot has happened, both in the area, and in the world.

We have seen a war started in Ukraine by Russia, come to impact half the world. Rightly Russia has been condemned for what they have and are continuing to do. There is no justification for their actions, Putin is simply taking what he wants, and does not care about the consequences either for the people that he is having killed or his own people who are also dying because of his greed and desires.

Therefore, Oil prices across the world have shot up, and this has impacted on our community as rises in heating oil has all but tripled in price. This will have a serious impact on our family earnings, as the energy market and the cost of living had already made us feel the pinch on our wallets.

What, however, this war has done is show the world that we are a caring and generous people, there are many in the community doing what they can in donating money and goods to the Ukraine and offering a room or rooms for those that have been displaced there. Showing that in a time of need we care and won't stand by.

On the 5th of March, I attended the open day held by the Scouts at the new Hall being built for them at Wainhouse. All I can say is that the facility will be wonderful, the commitment they have, and the effort placed into building the hall is second to none, the building is up with a roof and the tiling is going on the roof, they expect the windows to go in in early April. All I can say is well done to all those involved in the building of the Hall you are and have done a wonderful job, it when finished will be a great venue for the Scouts and Cubs, and other groups that will use that building.

On Saturday the 12th of March I attended Neighbourhood development Plan meeting at the guild Hall, where the Chairman Matthew Blows explained what the group were doing to prepare the plan for the Parish and the impact it will have when it is finished.

An incredible amount of effort has gone into the work carried out, and all the group and some that have recently left should be commended for the effort and their contribution they have made.

The meeting was well attended, and afterwards we were treated to light refreshments with scones jam and cream. Thank you to all the ladies that served and prepared the tea it was lovely, and you should also be commended.

On the 22Nd of March I attended a Police and Crime Commission seminar for Police advocates, which was the capacity in which I attended. The Police and Crime Commissioner outlined the rationale behind Operation Scorpion as it is to be known, and the determination to gather intelligence and produce evidence to disrupt and detain those dealing with controlled drugs and combined that with anti-social behaviour. This is to be a 10-year plan, so it is to become an integral part of Policing across the entire Southwest.

The main purpose is to identify and disrupt both individuals and organised crime from making footholds within our communities and to drive the drug dealing out. They are seeking to bring in every organisation that this subject would impact from the County Council involvement for care and rehabilitation and all others including the Judiciary.

The aim to stop those benefiting from Drug dealing, protect the people innocently impacted by it, and help those that are dependent upon drugs, thereby reducing crime and making the society a much better and safer place.

There is no quick fix for this problem but combining the efforts these organisations make with the general public's eyes and ears, a serious impact would be possible, and over time we will begin to see the rewards from the effort made today.

I will end by saying that the entire Parish Council are working hard on your behalf, and as can be seen from the formation of a new parish Hall committee we should soon start to see progress for the community in the creation of a new parish Hall, and how that will be able to benefit the whole community.

Robert Gavin

Chairman Poundstock Parish Council.