

# Chairman's Welcome

**In a normal year we would have held our Grand Assembly and started our new council year back in May, however this is no ordinary year.**

We enjoyed a packed and successful year May 2019 to March 2020. Many projects and initiatives the council backed thrived throughout. We spruced up the offices, revamped our Web, changed our Newsletter and supported a huge amount of festivities from the Galas and Carnivals of the summer, the Christmas festivities and so we arrived onto the beginning of 2020 where we had planned many festivities to commemorate and celebrate many anniversaries but it wasn't to be.

At the end of 2019 we all were aware of the Covid-19 Virus affecting Asia but as the new year began the whole world started to feel the threats of this contagious virus spreading. The council was still meeting and making plans when on 23rd March we had lockdown, no one allowed outdoors other than key workers, everything stopped, everywhere closed.

Bradfield Parish Council closed its offices. Teresa our RFO/Clerk and her assistant Pam both began to work from home, the maintenance staff worked alone in key areas like Birtin Cemetery, Coronation Park, Dungworth Park and the picnic area by Smithy Bridge. We devolved authority to ensure the Parish Council still continued to function and as soon as the appropriate legislation was passed by Parliament held remote Zoom meetings for the council.

I would like to say at this point a very big thank you to all our staff and my fellow councillors who have risen to this most challenging of times and maintained essential work to ensure Bradfield Parish Council continued to function throughout this lockdown period.

Very trying, challenging times but the Council is in a strong position to restart with many plans and initiatives ready to progress throughout the coming year when we all gradually, cautiously come out of lockdown and tentatively begin projects once more.

Bradfield Parish Council has monthly meetings for the full council, but it also works through its two committees: The Finance & Personnel Committee and the Assets, Community and Environment Committee, a brief resume of both committees activities over the past year can be found over the next two pages.



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2019/2020

The Parish Council approved expenditure for the financial year 2019/20 of £292,525.

The Council's expenditure relates to services carried out in the area, enhancing the work of Sheffield City Council and local community groups, maintenance of its assets, which include Council offices, Coronation Park, Birtin Cemetery, Low Bradfield public toilets, several stone built bus shelters, vehicles and equipment, numerous wayside seats and noticeboards, and provision of illuminated Christmas trees throughout the Parish.

An amount is also set aside each year for grants to local organisations. The full list of successful grant applications for 2019/2020 can be found on the website. The precept collected from the local taxpayers amounted to £246,372. The balance was met from reserves, income from Birtin Cemetery, rental income, Community Infrastructure Levy and other miscellaneous income. The Council's accounts are subject to external audit. The external audit will be undertaken in July 2020 and the accounts will be made available to the public during July 2020. The final audit report will be displayed after completion of the external audit. For the current year 2020/21 budgeted expenditure amounts to £288,045 with a precept of £253,640.

## Chairman Councillor Stephen Bennett

# Reports from Councillors Matt Gray and Karen Southwood

As Vice Chair of the Assets, Community and Environment Committee Matt has stepped in to Chair some meetings following the appointment of Chair Cllr Miriam Cates being elected as MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge. We also hear from Chair of Finance and Staffing Karen Southwood.

Improvement works have been ongoing to the pathways in Coronation Park. The Council continues to work with Sustrans and funded a scoping exercise 'Sheffield North Links to NCN 627' alongside Stocksbridge Town Council which maps and assesses options for improving active travel from Stocksbridge, Deepcar and Oughtibridge to the National Cycle Network/Trans Pennine Trail in the Upper Don Valley and to the areas reservoirs. Each fortnight we hold a planning meeting to make observations about current plans for consideration under the Town & Country Planning act tabled from SCC & PDNPA. We have members of the committee from each of the Parish Wards. With the local knowledge these members bring to the committee, we see the plans from the local perspective, and discuss any problems relating to these local



areas and how the prospective plans could affect the local neighbourhoods. Members regularly help out Parishioners planning concerns and problems, both by attending site visits and by inviting Parishioners to present their concerns direct to the committee. We continually develop the effectiveness of the committee's work and encourage Parishioners to engage with the Planning committee.

**COUNCILLOR KAREN SOUTHWOOD AS CHAIR OF FINANCE & STAFFING**  
The Finance and Staffing Committee has helped the Council maintain its service to the community within a budget set for the year. All of our annual accounts are subject to a full internal audit carried out by an independent fully qualified auditor, all this before being submitted for external audit. The Council continues its working partnerships with Action for Stannington, Steel Valley Project and Oughtibridge Gala Events and Donations Charity.

## Stannington Ward



Penny Baker



Mavis Butler



Peter Butler



Matthew Gray



Chris Carter

## Wharncliffe Side Ward



Stephen Bennett

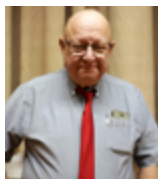
## Oughtibridge Ward



Miriam Cates



Terry Barrow



Nigel Clark



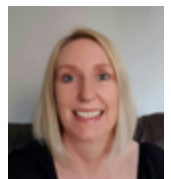
Peter Shaw



Keven Habeshaw



Vickie Priestley



Karen Southwood

## Worrall Ward