**Chairman’s Report for 2021 Annual Parish Meeting**

As a result of the lengthy update on the activities of the Parish Council that was issued as part of the Newsletter that went out in December 2020 this is a considerably shorter report than normal. Further details can be found in the minutes of our meetings, which are available directly from the Clerk to the Council, or from the GKPC website.

**Meetings**

To comply with Coronavirus restrictions the Parish Council has continued to meet, in accordance with the local government association guidelines, using ZOOM. Details of the dates of meetings are listed on our web site (www.gkpc.co.uk) and the parish noticeboards at Kilcot Cross and Christchurch. For anyone who wishes to participate in a virtual parish council meeting the details are available on the website or from the parish clerk, Mrs Arin Spencer (clerk@gkpc.co.uk or 07484 619582). Hopefully we will be able to revert to face to face meetings in the very near future.

It remains our intention, even when Coronavirus restrictions are removed, to continue to have a resume published in the Chimes so that those without access to the internet can easily see what the Parish Council is doing.

**Financial**

Despite ever increasing costs GKPC remains in a healthy financial situation and holds reserves in line with local government guidelines.

**Road Safety**

We are now in a position to resume Community Speed Watch within the parish. Discussions with the relevant department within Gloucestershire constabulary have clarified permissible signage, which will enable us to look at the erection of permanent signs, subject to the agreement of Gloucestershire Highways. Additional volunteers to help conduct speed checks are always welcome; if you would like to take part in CSW, or would like any further information, please contact our Parish Clerk, Mrs Arin Spencer.

Many of you will be aware that for several years the Parish Council has been seeking for Herefordshire County Council to introduce a 7.5T weight restriction on the B4222 after Gloucestershire highways refused to on the grounds that the road in our county was adequate for all HGVs to use! Late last year we were approached by Aston Ingham Parish Council who sought for a joint approach on road safety with GKPC, which we were more than happy to agree to. This resulted in me contacting the Herefordshire highways contractor and learning that our request is progressing up the priority list and is now at a point where it may be funded in this financial year.

The not so good news is that, despite it having been in the Local Transport Plan since 2016, Gloucestershire County Council has still done nothing to restrict HGV traffic on the B4221. Similarly, we have been unable to discover any external sources of funding to provide an additional, ideal mobile, Vehicle Activates Speed sign.

**Road Repairs**

The annual report sent to Highways has historically provided a good means of getting work that would otherwise be missed carried out. While some concerns were expressed about a couple of parish roads in the 2020/21 report the recent damage to Old Lane, which occurred after the report was submitted, is the most serious. As a result Highways have been made aware of the issue and we hope to see some remedial work in the very near future.

**Oxenhall Lane Ford**

It is also disappointing to have to report that, despite regularly asking about progress, we are still no closer to a solution. You may rest assured that the Parish Council will continue to press Highways on this issue.

**Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been considered so far in 2021:

Briery Hill House, Briery Hill Lane, Kilcot (P0978/20/FUL): Installation of a domestic heating oil storage tank within the existing parking area of ‘The Granary’ including the installation of a new below ground oil feed line and the erection of a shallow protective wall on two sides of the oil storage tank. Granted permission.

Brassfields Farm, Ross Road, Gorsley (P1447/20/FUL): Erection of a single storey extension with the creation of annexe accommodation and associated works. Granted permission.

Ford Farm Poultry Sheds, Ford Lane, Kilcot (P1740/20/FUL): Erection of a bat receptor including log store, to provide a separate structure to accommodate bats and to serve as a roosting provision. Granted permission.

Brooklands, Swag Water Lane, Gorsley (P2049/20/FUL): Erection of a single storey extension with associated works. Granted permission.

Little Bull Hill, Kempley Road, Gorsley (P0173/21/FUL): Proposed conversion of storage building and replacement of lean-to to provide holiday let accommodation. Granted permission.

**Kilcot Green**

The required safety work highlighted in last year’s professional inspection was carried out in February. Probably the most noticeable thing is the clearance of the trees encroaching on the verge and road edge on Kilcot Hill.

The intention is to clear the brambles around the picnic table and benches and reinstall the newly refurbished noticeboard in the coming weeks as the first step to making more of the area off Briery Hill Lane usable again.

**Update of Community Emergency Plan**

While parishioners to provide various skills, equipment or facilities were sought in the December newsletter, following an update of the Community Emergency Plan, there has been a noticeable lack of offers of help. Please have a look at the list below and let the parish clerk know if you are willing to be included in the plan. Once again it is stressed that the details of those who offer to provide assistance are restricted to members of the Parish Council.

Community volunteer resources needed:

Sandbags Local Knowledge First Aid

Catering Engineer Mechanic

Computing/IT Counselling Visitor to the vulnerable Bore hole Wells General care of animals

4x4 Vehicles Tractors Trailers

Diggers/dumpers Emergency Lighting Chainsaw

GPs / Nurses Vet Temp. acc. (persons)

Temp. acc. (animals) Alt heating/cooking Portable heaters

Blankets etc Portable pump Portable generators

*Cllr Nigel Warwick*

*Chairman*