

**ALDHAM PARISH ANNUAL MEETING  
(Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 8.00 pm)**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Parish Council Report (2020/21)**

The **council** consisted of :      Richard Beaver (current Vice Chairman)  
   William Crockatt  
   Paul Glazin  
   James Hart  
   Jonathan Ralph (current Chairman)

None of the councillors is paid or claims expenses. We continue to be grateful to David Brown who provides the services of **Clerk** on a voluntary capacity as his personal contribution to the well-being of the parish.

Our **parish council meetings** over the year have been supported by our County Councillor (Robert Lindsay) and District Councillor (Leigh Ferguson) and we thank them both for their regular attendance. They have variously provided help and advice relating to different issues which have arisen during the year (thinking about various planning matters including new building and Hadleigh Quarry, highways, roads flooding, diversions/signage, verge maintenance, etc) and the ongoing developments relating to County and District budgets. Their engagement – and their availability to us - has been much appreciated.

**Annual “general operating” expenditure** in the year ending March 2020 was slightly under last year's, totalling only £956. This included £450 in public asset support grants for the parish church, the newsletter and the village hall. Other cost items included insurance, SALC membership and the implementation and maintenance of our parish website (which is now a statutory requirement).

There was a higher-than-usual balance carried over from last year (£2,528) mainly comprising a build up of contingency funds. The **parish precept** for the year ending March 2021 was £1,272. Thus (after all expenditures) funds carried over into 2021/22 total £3019.45.

Several residents make their own **low profile contributions** (local grass cutting, litter collection, etc) and the parish would be much poorer without these.

The wider issue of **planning and development** is set to dominate council activities over the next year. This council will be engaging with various bodies to protect and enhance the interests of the community as we can discern them. We will update our Neighbourhood Plan in line with the evolving District Plan and – potentially – new government legislation currently under discussion.

We are not very active as a **civic body** – just a small group of 5 councillors and a clerk, all of whom engage in a variety of ways in community activities as and when possible. Rarely is it evident that the general public are much inclined to get involved in local matters, and as a consequence there seems not to be the appetite for innovation or improvement to the status quo. Periodically some matters relating to planning and development, or decisions taken by Babergh District Council, may excite our concerns, but not much happens which is of note.

**OPEN DISCUSSION ON ANY ITEM**