

## **Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council**

### **Chairman's Report for the Parish Council Year 2021/2022**

This is my ninth report as Chairman of Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council. The Covid 19 pandemic featured greatly again in the lives of residents during the past year, but as the success of the vaccine roll-out became increasingly evident we were able to start resuming our usual patterns of everyday life – and what a relief that has been!

The Parish Council meets again in the Jubilee Hall and I would like to welcome residents to come and see a Parish Council in action when it has the future and well-being of its residents at its heart.

Your Parish Councillors this year were: Tony Ball, Paul Harris, Mrs Christine Johnson, David Knight, Colin Mansfield, Mrs Nicky Mills, Alan Newton and Mrs Jacky Pendleton who were joined during the year by Dr Colin Hayes and Mrs Pamela Godfrey. Unfortunately, Councillor Graham Jones resigned from the Parish Council - his background knowledge of the workings of Local Government at both Parish and District level will be greatly missed. We do therefore have a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor – so do come to a meeting and see if you would like to join and help us deliver the best we can to the residents of Middleton and Elmer.

The hub around which all our councillors operate is provided by our Parish Clerk, Joe Lake. Joe provides us with an extremely efficient administrative system and assists residents when requested with any queries they may have regarding local authority bureaucracy. He can tell you where to find the information you need, who to put your complaints to and he will put items on the agenda of our meetings that residents have strong concerns about.

Such items this year were the off shore development of the Rampion wind farm and the proposed new Bognor Golf Course off Ancton Lane, when public meetings were called for residents to express their concerns. I would ask that residents keep an eye on our notice boards and on our web site as sometimes such meetings have to be called at fairly short notice and although we do notify residents associations and all directly interested parties, it is not possible to notify all residents individually.

The Development Control Committee has now followed the example of Arun District Council and will be known as the Planning Committee. Councillors Paul Harris, David Knight, Alan Newton, and myself were chaired by Mrs Christine Johnson and met every two weeks. Last year over 70 planning applications were submitted by residents of Middleton and Elmer, and were scrutinised by the Committee before onward consideration by Arun District Council. This was up from 60 last year. Additionally views of the Committee were sought on the A259 Road Enhancement Scheme (Comet Corner roundabout) and the proposed Energy Recovery Facility at Ford. As in other years there were planning compliance problems to be dealt with as well as controversial changes of use plus the possible impact of planning applications in the wider area.

Our other committees are now getting back into their stride and are meeting physically together. The General Purposes Committee, chaired by Mrs Nicky Mills; the Trustees of the Parish Land & Property Committee, chaired by Mrs Christine Johnson and of course the Finance Committee making sure that your parish precept is spent wisely. The 'eagle-eyed' among you will have noticed that the Sports Pavilion has installed 12 solar panels through a grant provided by Arun District Council. Also our Tree Warden, Colin Mansfield has been busy planting and nurturing hedging whips, some of which were kindly donated by St Nicholas Church. This dry spring means watering is a real chore so if there are any volunteers to help with this task please do phone the Parish Clerk.

This summer we will be planting a tree on Shrubbs Field as part of the Queen's Treebilee. Mrs Joyce Weston, Chair of the Trustees of the Jubilee Hall will be assisting in this task on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 during our Parish's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The fun starts at 2pm so do join us if you can – we hope it will be a traditional family fete for our residents to fondly remember. I look forward to seeing you!

Shirley Haywood