

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Report from the Vice Chairman – John Balcombe

This year has been particularly difficult because of the continued covid restrictions, and I would like to thank the members for their attendance under these extreme conditions.

During the year we appointed a new clerk in Mel and she has worked tirelessly to get the office fully compliant and to gain an in-depth knowledge of the workings of the Parish Council. Mel has successfully completed the year end requirements and, in between times, has been following up grants, funding streams and 106 monies that the Parish Council had not been made aware of. A huge thank you to Mel.

Thank you to the office staff, our grounds staff and contractors who have also worked extremely hard throughout the pandemic. Lee and our contractors continued to keep our recreation and play areas in good order and safe during these difficult times.

The Christmas Fair Event was a great success with our staff all pulling together and giving many hours to planning and being in attendance on the day. A huge thanks to the Gallagher family for their incredible help in planning and funding this event. Special thanks to Mel and Lee for being in attendance all day, probably for 12hrs shift, and to Mel and Lyndsey Gallagher for the many hours of planning to ensure a successful outcome.

Some Brief Headline Points

- Recruitment of an additional part time office member is well underway.
- The 3G pitch on Forstal Recreation Ground is progressing and will be a great asset to the Community.
- The Netball and Rugby clubs are also moving forward with their expansions.
- In the last year there has been a number of major residential planning applications in the Parish which have needed expert advice at a cost to the Council.

- The Aylesford News Print site is well on the way to providing new units for business.

Finally, the FASC Committee has been interesting, introducing a new system for awarding grants and awarding a few well-deserved grants all within budget.

There is no doubt in my mind that we must remain vigilant in this new financial year.