EMPC Chairman’s Report

The last time the Parish Council was able to meet face to face was 17th March 2020. Since then, the Council swiftly adapted to holding its meetings virtually to ensure that business could still be conducted. The Scheme of delegated powers were given to the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman to enable the day to day running of the Council to be carried out.

As the year moved on the decision to have a Finance & Governance Committee and Planning Committee proved invaluable and effective. These committees, in turn, freed up full Council to address other ongoing major issues that arose during the year. This has produced a more professional and efficient Parish Council.

We have received over the last couple of years some substantial Section 106 funding from the Earls Keep housing for High Ercall. This will go towards High Ercall Village Hall and the Primary School. The Solar Farm community grant, negotiated by us, for Roden will enable the Play Area to be brought up to standard. Both High Ercall Village Hall play area and the one at Roden will become the responsibility of the Parish Council. There are still funds from the Chicken Farm unit and Nursing Home available. It is pleasing to note that there now mains water in Roden.

In June, the fire in Cliff Crescent, in which luckily nobody was injured, raised certain safety issues which the Parish Council, on behalf of concerned residents and together with Telford & Wrekin tried to resolve to some limited success.

July saw the creation of a wish list by Councillors to address issues including Transport, Highways, Environment and Climate change. Hopefully, this can encourage community involvement, together with our support, with such things as litter picking and verge side planters that would enhance the look of our Parish.

Smartwater was finally rolled out to all residents and the signage has been put in place. All our streetlights are now LED, which will reduce our running costs and provide a more reliable street lighting. Thanks to Councillor Bentley, we now have bicycle stands located in the Parish.

The Mill Bend bridge repairs caused some disruption, however, unlike the last time the road was closed we were able to get a temporary 30 mph speed restriction in place between Poynton and Roden. This in turn has led to permanent signage in Roden informing drivers’ that the road is unsuitable for HGV’s.

Councillor Yvonne Homer was co-opted on to the Council in September. In December we said goodbye to Edward Davies our previous clerk and appointed Katrina Baker as our new Clerk.

I would like to take the opportunity to say sincere thanks to all the Councillors and parish volunteers who have come forward to support our more vulnerable residents during the Covid Pandemic. This in turn I believe has created a Community Spirit.

Our draft Neighbourhood Plan is now at Regulation 15 stage and hopefully can be adopted during this year. When adopted, hopefully this will enable the Council to have more influence on planning issues with the parish.

We are still looking at ways in which the Parish Council can improve life for residents in Ercall Magna. Hopefully, we can get some form of Community transport for people and try and introduce speed reduction measures. Budgets have been put aside for these projects.

This will be my last Annual Report as Chairman as I intend to step down at the AGM but will continue to support whoever is elected. I have found the Chairmanship to be challenging but rewarding.

Ray Wickson

Chairman