



## CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

In presenting this report I would like to thank and pay tribute to my predecessor Councillor Will Cook who chaired the Parish Council for over ten years. During his time as Chairman Will ensured that meetings ran efficiently and achieved their aims. He also ensured that the council met all its legal obligations and operated in the best interests of Cronton residents.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused problems for everyone, including minor local authorities, particularly in how they operated their meetings. Last year the government informed all councils that they must meet remotely and face to face meetings were banned. This was a new challenge for the Parish Council but with careful planning a solution was found. Meetings are being held using the Zoom platform. There were some glitches at first but I am pleased to report that they were quickly ironed out and meetings are now running very efficiently. Ward councillors and members of the public have joined us in these remote meetings. My thanks go to Councillor David Thomas who took the lead in setting up the meetings.

In January the new Parish Council and Village website was launched. A working group consisting of myself, Councillor David Thomas and the Parish Clerk Vitti Osborne were involved with the web designers in bringing the website to fruition. We have received positive comments from many people about the website design and its content.

A casual vacancy for a councillor arose and after a careful and fair process Councillor Roseanne Hayes was co-opted onto the council.

Councillor Hayes joined the council vice-chair Dave Rostance and Councillor John Foran to form a working group tasked with formulating a master plan for the Pasture. Working in partnership with officers from Knowsley Council things are going well. The Parish Council had a frank and honest discussion with a senior officer from KMBC about many issues about the Pasture including the costs the Parish Council pays KMBC for maintenance and problems related to drainage of the site. We have received a positive response from KMBC and look forward to jointly resolving the problems.

Village resident Vincent Dooley was invited to become an advisor to the council on disability issues and he attends all meetings in that role. My thanks go to Vinny for his work with the council.

KMBC informed the council of a proposed cycleway which would pass through the village to link up with Fox's Bank Lane via a new bridleway between Penny Lane and Fox's Bank Lane. We are awaiting more details about the proposal and will examine all information carefully.

Fly tipping has become a serious problem in and around the village. On more than one occasion car tyres have been dumped over a large area in the village. Thankfully KMBC have provided an excellent service in cleaning up after these criminal acts. Covert cameras have been placed at various sites and to date have resulted in enforcement action being taken against two individuals. Because of this success KMBC are considering installing an additional camera which is very much supported by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is apolitical but councillors sometimes have differing views on matters. Debates between councillors have always been conducted with mutual respect in a calm and efficient manner. The Parish Council is very much a team with all members wishing to serve the interests of Cronton to the best of their ability.

My thanks go to all councillors and the Parish Clerk, Vitti Osborne for the way in which they have worked during the last year.

Finally I would like to record my thanks to Denis Bray who retired as a Parish Councillor in early April. Denis served the council and the Cronton community for over twenty years and for some years was active on the Cronton Gala Committee. We wish Denis well for the future.

Shaun Cooper  
Chair 2020/21  
Cronton Parish Council