

REPORT FROM FRAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

The Council has once again operated on a rotating Chair basis for the year, so there is again no Chair's report, but I have put this report together as Parish Clerk.

We started the year with only five Councillors, but finished with six as Ian Seager was co-opted onto the Council in September. This year is of course an election year, but I am pleased to say that all six of our current Councillors have completed their forms and as the election on 4th May is uncontested (only six people have stood for seven vacancies), then as long as they all turn up to the meeting in May to take up their positions we will be starting the year again with six Councillors. This does of course mean that we still have a vacancy that we can fill via co-option, so if you think you have what it takes to be a Parish Councillor then please come along to our meetings and find out more.

It is worth remembering that all Parish Councillors are volunteers and give their time freely for the benefit of the village as a whole, so we must thank them all for their efforts.

So, what's been going on in Framsdan over the past year?

- 1) The major project of refurbishing the village Play Area has been undertaken and especial thanks must go to Councillor Claire Macaulay for her hard work in securing funding and overseeing the project. Unfortunately, the project has not run completely according to plan and there are still a number of snagging issues that need to be resolved as the contractors employed by the play equipment company did not do as good a job as might be hoped for. The Parish Council understands that the long delays in getting the Play Area reopened were very frustrating for the village, but until various errors had been corrected and the equipment passed the RoSPA Safety Inspection it was necessary. Thank you to everyone for being patient. There are regrettably still some issues that need to be resolved (particularly with the laying of the rubber safety matting) and the Play Area may need to be closed again for short period to enable this remedial work to be carried out, but overall the new equipment has been well received.
- 2) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with events organised by a Parish Council Working Party which included beacon lighting, live entertainments and tree planting to form a Jubilee Copse within the village.
- 3) Plans are currently underway for a celebration to mark the King's Coronation following the sad passing of the Queen last September, the events are likely to be a little more muted than the Jubilee celebrations, but it is hoped that they will still help everyone to mark this historic occasion.
- 4) At our March meeting we were given a presentation by the Debenham Dementia Project, a group that provides much needed support to dementia sufferers and their carers in the community. The Debenham Dementia Project has been around since 2009, but is trying to re-launch following the devastating impact of COVID-19 on its services. The group is particularly reaching out to satellite villages surrounding Debenham (about a 4 mile radius) as they are keen to make it clear that they are they for everyone. More information can be found at their website [The Debenham Project – Welcome \(the-debenham-project.org.uk\)](https://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk)
- 5) During the course of the year the Asset of Community Value (ACV) listings for both Eades Orchard and the Doberman Inn/Asbach House expired. The Woodland Group felt that there was no immediate need to re-apply for an ACV listing for Eades Orchard, which the Parish Council respected. The ACV for the Doberman Inn/Asbach House was initially renewed, but the current position is that the owner of the property has successfully appealed this decision. The Parish Council is working with Framsdan Community Benefits Society to see if there is any way forward from this situation.
- 6) Over the course of the year the Parish Council has been involved in 8 planning consultations, some of which have generated more opinions than others. It is important to note that the Parish Council do not have any decision making powers, but we are a statutory consultee and provide an important local viewpoint.
- 7) Finally, thanks must go to our volunteer who looks after the Recycling Bins in the layby at Peats Corner (and also to anyone who has deposited bottles and textiles in them). This fabulous resource has brought in £1530.68 this year, which will help the Parish Council to keep the Village Hall open and available as a community resource.