

BRADMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Report 2019/2020

The Parish Council has reached an impressive milestone this year – it celebrates its 125th anniversary. When its first meeting took place on 24 April 1895 in the vestry adjoining the Wesleyan (Methodist) Chapel with five villagers present, there was only one item on the agenda; to elect a chairman. Mr Thomas Walker was duly elected.

Bradmore has seen many changes during those 125 years, but one thing's certain - Mr Walker and his fellow councillors would never have imagined that one day the Parish Council would meet over something called "the internet". Due to the restrictions in place to control the Coronavirus outbreak, the Council's meeting on 13 May 2020 was held "virtually" with all seven current councillors and the Parish Clerk joining its first online meeting from the comfort of their living rooms.

Whilst a lot has altered in the village since 1895, some things don't change. From the Parish Council's archives, we see that the state of the village footpaths and ditches was as hot a topic then as it is now. The recent winter of 2019/20 was exceptionally wet and we saw how the heavy rain turned some of the fields surrounding the village into huge lakes. It turned out that the water that flooded Mill Lane and threatened to flood houses on Loughborough Road had been unable to drain away due to old ditches being blocked off. This will need to be addressed by the County Council over the coming months.

This year the Parish Council has been unable to hold the Annual Residents' Meeting (which is usually held in May) due to the current restrictions. We had invited the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service to come to the meeting to speak about fire and home safety, but have had to postpone their visit. We're hoping they'll be able to visit us next year instead.

I'd like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors, to Rebecca our Parish Clerk, to the Village Events Committee and to you, the residents of Bradmore, for the help and support you have given the Council and each other during these unprecedented times. I've been particularly impressed by the Community Support WhatsApp Group which has brought together over 40 residents, both new and long-standing, to provide assistance with shopping and other errands. Please don't hesitate to use this service if you need any help.

The V E Day celebrations last weekend, despite being considerably affected by the Coronavirus lockdown and social distancing measures, provided us all with a really welcome and moving day of togetherness. We are lucky to live in such a village, and I hope the renewed sense of community and new friendships that have been created will continue well beyond the current crisis. Keep safe and well.

Margaret Curran
Chair, Bradmore Parish Council