LUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman’s report for the year to 31st March 2021.

The Parish Council did not increase the precept for the year ending 31st March 2021 and is pleased that whilst households have to shoulder other increases we have not added to their burden. The precept pays for clerical and administration costs, insurance, subscriptions, donations, general repairs and maintenance, the children’s play area maintenance, audit fees, a grant for the maintenance of the Village Hall and in a normal year room hire for meetings.

The Parish Council continues to be responsible for “urban grass verge”, with a small grant from Norfolk County Council .

The Parish Council maintains reserves to pay for any future election expenses, general repairs and maintenance, audit fees and other contingencies.

The Womack Staithe Charitable Trust continues to give substantial financial assistance the Parish Council to cover the majority of expenditure incurred in the maintenance and upkeep of village grass cutting and amenities, the Parish Churchyard, and the balance of funds required to pay for the urban verges grass cutting.

The Parish Council was able to hold 10 council meetings before the first lockdown came into force but was unable to hold the 2020 AGM. It has managed to meet again since the Government permitted Zoom meetings and has fulfilled its core tasks but unfortunately was not able to hold the annual New Year’s Eve firework display.

During the last year there have been some changes of councillors. Sadly our long standing and very well respected councillor John Youngs passed away in April 2020 and we will miss his expertise on many aspects of village life and history. During the year Jim Usher moved from the village and Richard Pinning decided to stand down as a councillor. Both have served the village well and will be missed. Fortunately Richard will continue his good work with the Village Hall.

Ludham is very lucky that we have a number of willing volunteers and we have been able to welcome Karen Broxton, Jackie Wright and Clare Routledge to the Parish Council.

As soon as the first lockdown came into force Ludham Churches together decided to form a looking after Ludham organisation which the Parish Council has been pleased to support. The main thanks must go to the Churches together and our local shops who have been of great assistance.

I would like to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support and the various tasks they have applied themselves to throughout the year, to our parish clerk for her support, hard work and unfailing patience, and to the internal audit (Mike Flett) for ensuring that the parish finances are monitored

I would also thank our District and County Councillors for attending our meetings and for their support.

Ludham continues to be a great place to live not only due to the environment but to the generosity and public spiritedness of the residents

A.J. Lupson

1st May 2021