

## Chairman's report AB&BRPC 2021/22

Welcome to the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting of Abbess Beauchamp & Berners Roding Parish Council. Our meeting in 2021 was cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic in the World. However, on behalf of myself and I am assuming everyone both at this meeting and within our Parish our thoughts and prayers are with the poor citizens of Ukraine who are currently suffering unbelievable hardship.

At the elections last year Chris Metson decided he wished to retire from the Parish Council having served for many years and I am pleased to say this enabled us to double the female representation on the Parish Council also with due respect to Chris considerably lower the average age of the Councillors. Tamsin Oshorn joined the council in July 2021 and is already making her mark with innovative ideas and many contacts. Whilst many of you will know some if not all the Parish Councillors, I will briefly introduce my fellow councillors.

We also welcome following the retirement of Maggie McKewen a new District Councillor Ray Balcombe and County Councillor Jamey Melvor who shall both be speaking later.

Over the past two years we have had electronic meetings on zoom our first face to face meetings were alfresco in the garden of The Room in the Rodings and hopefully we are now back to some form of normality. Your Parish Council have met officially four times during the past twelve months with the final meeting of the current period in three weeks' time. In addition all of the local planning applications for Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding have been reviewed and comments made to Epping Forest District Council where appropriate. Our project to refurbish the black and white fingerposts throughout the Parish has almost reached completion with the post outside the Two Swans and the one in the centre of Abbess to be completed. Covid has unfortunately slowed the progress both in obtaining materials and generally organising this project. We have a defibrillator installed in the redundant telephone kiosk at Berners Roding and have obtained funding for another in Abbess Roding which we are currently discussing the location for this one. We are constantly pressing Essex County Council with regard to flooding, the state of pot holes and missing road signs and shall continue to do so.

The Parish Council are responsible for the cutting of the grass verges in the Parish which we took over from Essex County Council. Our thanks to John Kenny, who has provided this service for the past year. We believe this results in a better service to the Parish and ensures all the verges are kept tidy. Our thanks also to Keith Daly of Essex Farms who keeps Berners in a very neat and tidy order.

We would like to encourage community events and are arranging a picnic here at the Room in the Rodings on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee. Bring your own picnic chairs and rugs there will be a barbecue organised by the Church to raise funds. Entertainment will be a jazz band and for those young at heart a bouncy castle.

As we have not had our usual photo competition this year we have organised a wonderful speaker Peter Nicholson to entertain and educate us on the history of the Rodings which will follow on after the formal meeting tonight.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their contribution and support over the past twelve months. A very big thank you must also go to our Parish Clerk, Karen Weare, we certainly could not operate without her input. Karen who has been with us for six years now which on our previous record makes her entitled to a long service award and gold watch, please don't minute that, Karen!

Finally I must thank Maggie McKewen and her two replacements Ray Balcombe and Jamey Melvor who provide excellent support and advice at our Parish Council Meetings as both our County and District Councillors representing our Parish.

That concludes my Chairman's report for 2022.

It has been nearly 8 months since the elections this has been a learning curve for me stepping up from Parish Councillor to District Councillor. The first 8 weeks were spent learning how the council works and attending training courses as well as council meetings both at District and Parish councils. Council meetings and training session were via teams and zoom over the internet due to COVID restrictions.

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I represent High Ongar, Willingale, ~~Abbas Beauchamp and Benge~~ Roding, I have been dealing with Planning issues, Flooding, Housing, Pot holes, Bin collection problems and Fly tipping. Some of these do not come under my brief but I have a good working relationships with Essex County Councillor Jaymey McIvor. We are working together on local Highways issues (flooding and pot holes) and slowly we are getting things done.

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) councillors met last week and agreed a balanced district council budget for 2022 / 2023, Residents of Epping Forest District will still pay the lowest Council Tax in Essex from April. The small increase of £5 a year for a average band D property has ensured protection for frontline services. The district council has no control over the county council, police, fire, town and parish council precepts.

Regeneration projects in total £185 million pounds over the 5 years on hosing including a investment in Shelly and Ongar where new bungalows have already been delivered.

I have been appointed to the following committees at Epping Forest District Council

Area Planning Sub-Committee East

Stronger Communities Select Committee (Vice Chairman)

Stronger Place Select Committee

(Acting Chairman)

I can be found in the ward every week and attend your Parish Council meetings so any questions or problems please speak to me. My contact details are on Parish Council website and Epping Forest District Council website.

Cllr Ray Balcombe

## ABBRPC

### Receipts and payments account

	Year ended 31.3.2021	period ended 28.02.2022
<b>Receipts</b>		
Precept	5,500.00	5,610.00
Grants and donations	2,466.00	1,000.00
Grass Cutting	1,734.83	1,734.83
VAT Refund	1,011.05	383.86
Insurance recovery	186.00	-
TSB Compensation	-	75.00
Bank interest	4.17	1.52
	10,902.05	8,805.21
<b>Payments</b>		
Administration (including membership)	299.90	424.35
Staff Costs	2,522.00	2,306.87
Grants and donations	2,205.00	600.00
Insurance	175.36	176.36
VAT	837.23	383.94
Grass Cutting	1,651.65	1,651.65
Heritage fingerpost	2,142.05	268.03
Defibrillator	1,466.00	-
Maintenance	392.46	0
	11,691.65	5,811.20
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-789.60</b>	<b>2,994.01</b>
Lloyds bank balances at 28.02.2022		
Treasurers	£609.19	
Online	£16,014	
	<u>£16,623.19</u>	

## The Parish Churches of Abbess and Beauchamp Roding 02/03/22

When I gave my last Churches report in March 2020 I began by reporting that the Revd Robert Stone had been recently licensed and installed as our Priest in Charge of the Rodings, Easters and Gt Canfield which of course includes Abbess and Beauchamp Roding. I think I speak for all my fellow Church Wardens when I say how glad we have been to have Robert with us during this strange couple of years where as a Church we experienced lockdowns, worship via Zoom and a changing series of rules and regulations for worship when we were able to meet in Church again. Since Easter 2021 all Sunday services have been in Church again and both Churches currently have two Sunday morning services each in an average month, the same as before lockdown.

Regarding the Church buildings themselves both Churches have had significant repairs since my last report. In May 2021 the electrics at Abbess Roding Church were inspected and deemed to be unsafe. A complete rewiring and renewal of the heating system was advised. This meant that despite having only just reopened after lockdown once again we could not use the Church for services. From May until the end of November all Abbess Services were transferred to Beauchamp or Leaden Roding. The cost of the rewiring meant some urgent fundraising was required and an appeal letter written by Revd Robert was distributed to all households in Abbess Roding. Thanks to the generous response to this appeal and other funds raised we were able to get the repairs completed in the autumn and we were back in church in time for Advent and Christmas. Regarding Beauchamp Roding Church at the time of my last report we had just been advised by the architect and builders working on repairs to the Church that a new roof to the tower was urgently required. This was a more substantial repair than we had planned or budgeted for but we are able to get a new roof installed by the end of 2020 and I am pleased to report that the tower is dry and watertight once more. However the extra expense depleted our funds considerably and since then we have not been able to spend money on any further repairs. Just recently Storm Eunice removed a large number of roof tiles from the porch and nave at the west end of the Church but we hope this can be repaired via our insurance.

With both Churches having large unexpected bills to pay we were keen to hold some fundraising events once regulations allowed us to do so. At Beauchamp in August we had Teas and stalls at the Church and then a Christmas Market here in November. After the gap of more than a year we wondered how these events would go but it was as if we'd never been away as people turned out in numbers to support us once again and at the Christmas Market we raised our highest ever total for that event of £1332. At Abbess Roding the Friends of St Edmunds rushed into action to help with fundraising for the rewiring project. They held a very successful Quiz Night here in November which raised £1425.55 and in January there was a new event the winter warmer a bonfire and BBQ at Abbess Hall, which was also very successful raising £806.52. Thanks to all our tremendous volunteers and supporters who work so hard to make these events a success in both churches. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported us and those who responded to the appeal. Thanks also to the Room in the Rodings for the use of the hall. The next event will be Beauchamp's Country Market on 14th May 11 till 4 here in the Room in the Rodings and Abbess Roding will be holding a Beetle Drive also here on 21st May at 3pm.

Finally both Churches are open during the day seven days a week so please do pop in for a visit if you wish, you are most welcome. Equally everybody is welcome to come along to any of our services the details are in Parish News, on the noticeboards and the website and Facebook pages.