Welcome everyone. Thank you all for taking the time to be here. I will keep my report short - I am very aware that this meeting is about you - the residents of the parish. It is your opportunity to speak out and share your views with your neighbours.

I'm now going to read my Chairperson's report.

Chairman's report

It would be wrong to say that the last 12 months have been easy. It has been challenging, and at times hurtful to some members of the parish council.

Several councillors have received unreasonable and unfounded complaints which Wiltshire Council found to be baseless.

Thanks to those of you who have supported us through this difficult period.

That's all I intend to say on this subject.

Despite the negative aspects of the year, good things have happened!

We have a new web site. There are still some additions and adjustments to make but it's off to a good start and has been well received.

Community life after covid is picking up. Since restrictions were lifted, some regular events have come back on the calendar and some new ones too - Lynn Withy organised a couple of pop-up pubs which proved successful. The Plant Fair returned - as popular as ever and the village hall is back in operation again.

There have been changes in the council. Two councillors have left. There was a by election (the precept had to be increased as a consequence). Two new councillors have been elected. We now have a full council of 7 members.

For the most part of the last year Councillor Guy Rickett has taken on the role of acting clerk - fitting the task in with his own full-time work. He - and the rest of the council are very pleased to have a new clerk, Naomi. Naomi is off to a good start and is already working hard and making a difference.

And then there's the Neighbourhood Plan. This has lost some momentum over the last year due to a misalignment between the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. If the community is enthusiastic for this to go ahead then hopefully in the coming months we can get this back on track with a higher level of public engagement and a few new faces perhaps.

The Goddard Arms is still in limbo. The Parish Council has recognised in its policy that it would support the community in its desire to have a pub in the village. But - and this is rather fundamental to what happens -the pub is not for sale! There is also a planning application in process. This decision is for Wiltshire Council to make - not the parish council. Once the parish council knows the outcome of that we will let you know too.

Speeding and road issues have been a constant pain for people living in Bushton and the hill down from Clyffe Pypard. There have been 3 accidents that I'm aware of in the past 6 months. I would urge anyone witnessing an accident to notify the parish council clerk. The more evidence we collect to support traffic calming measures - the more likely we are to be able to achieve something. The possibility of a sign along the Barton is being investigated. The metro count which was in place a couple of months ago did not show sufficient evidence of speeding. However, I would say that it was in place before the end of lockdown so the traffic was much lighter than previously.

The Bushton stink - environmental health have been looking at this for some time and some months ago gave me a detailed explanation of what they thought the problem to be. I think Allison Bucknell is going to mention this so I won't steal her thunder……..

Finally, I would like to say a few words about one of our councillors. He is a man of few words. But he certainly is a man of action! For the past few

months Councillor Chris Stubbings has been raising money for Ukranian refugee families now living in the UK. He has given up many weekends to stand in local supermarkets collecting for this cause. He has so far single-handedly raised in the region of £4000. Great work Chris. I know that there many other people in this community have been contributing time and energy to help this cause. I hope you will give him your support too. If you want more information, please do look at his stand at the back of the hall.

I can't close without acknowledging tensions in the community. These tensions have been have been a source of unhappiness.

We are a very small hamlet - not even a village in fact. If the community doesn't work for all then we are failing. As Marian has said many times - We should be pulling together.

It seems to me that it is time to draw a line under what has passed and leave what has gone before where it belongs - in the past.

What would I like to see in the coming year?

- the community working together to make this place a good place to live for everyone
- a community where we all respect and allow the views of others to be heard - even though we may not agree with them.
- A community where we all think about the consequences of words and actions

But most of all - more kindness!

Be kind to yourselves and each other.

Thank you

It is now time to hand over to you! This is your meeting. Following will be reports from various groups in the community and then there will be an open form where anyone can say their bit.