**GRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2021**

With the Coronavirus restrictions, the past year has been different for the Parish Council as it has for everyone. At the beginning of the year people in the village kindly volunteered to collect prescriptions walk dogs, fetch shopping and carry out small building jobs for residents of the parish. Their offers were gratefully accepted and I would like to convey the Parish Council’s thanks for their willingness to help.

The Parish Council had to move to virtual meetings, which were very successful and we managed to deal with all the usual decisions and business during the year, with our District and County Councillors joining us on most meetings. There are now moves by the Government to make virtual meetings lawful permanently and we await developments.

We were pleased to welcome a new parish councillor, Abi Sanders, to the council which has taken us to our full compliment of parish councillors.

We have been trying to deal with various projects in the village, which have been slowed by restrictions and other matters. We hope to make a decision this evening on the costs to proceed with a project on the Park for maintenance of the Pavilion and picnic area. The next project on the Park will be the felt roof, which is getting near to the end of its life. The replacement of the noticeboards in both Upper and Lower Gresham have been in progress for far too long, but we hope to complete both shortly. A smaller project has been the steam cleaning of the War Memorial in the Churchyard, which has recently been completed.

Finally, I would like to thank the Friends of the Church for their magnificent efforts to raise the funding and project manage the renovations to the Church and we look forward to the opening when we can see the results of all their work.