

Clerk's Report – 2020-21

A very strange and unusual year as Parish Clerk.

Following two years as Clerk and just having got to grips with how things work, everything changed when we had to quickly adjust to a different way of working in response to the Covid-19 lockdown!

Held our last face to face meeting on 17th March 2020, and haven't seen many of the Councillors in person since.

The government passed legislation to allow local Council meetings to be held remotely, and we implemented our own policy and process to enable the Council to continue to function as normally as possible.

On a personal level, it also meant balancing taking care of a six month old baby and a pre-schooler whilst still continuing to fulfil my Clerk role. Like most people this past year, we've muddled through.

Financial Year 2020/21:

Total payments - £3,525

Raised from precept - £3,650

Underspend versus budget - £1,253 – mainly due to Covid (no APA or VE Day event; no paid for training)

Grants/donations:

- West Berkshire library service - £200
- Citizens Advice West Berkshire - £100

Highlights of the year:

Dealing with the overflowing dog waste bin! Significant increase in people walking to, from or around Englefield was very noticeable, not just in the number of people walking, but also the number of complaints/messages about the overflowing dog waste bin!

Now have a new contract in place for weekly collection and clean of the dog bin, which has made a significant difference, and also approval to purchase an additional dog bin to be located along North Street.

Over-riding highlight of the past year - seeing the amazing community spirit that makes Englefield so special.