



## Chairman's Monthly Newsletter

This month has been another busy one for the Parish Council. The end of year audit took place, looking not only in detail at its finances but encompassing so much more, including asset reviews and those all important risk assessments. Thanks to our diligent clerk, Sarah, our auditor gave us a clean bill of health commenting, 'I found everything that I was looking for and I have to say that you really keep the records well'. So, a good tick in the box for Slindon!

We warmly encourage members of the public to join us, although they cannot participate in the meeting itself. There is no right to speak but as a Council we choose to set aside some time for this, usually limited to three minutes per person and fifteen minutes in total before the main business. The Annual Meeting of the Council saw up to twelve people join us, witnessing the approval of the accounts and the consideration of other matters, including 'Operation Watershed' and the new licence for the use of the Recreation Ground. The next ordinary meeting of the Council will now take place on Monday 21 June 2021, when lockdown restrictions are due to end – we'll keep you posted!

Disappointingly, the legislation which has allowed the Council to meet remotely has now ended, with a High Court challenge to continue this proving unsuccessful. However, this is unlikely to be the end of the story – watch this space! Whilst it is of course great to meet face to face – particularly after over a year of lockdowns – access to remote meetings provides great flexibility and the ability to include those who for one reason or another might struggle to join in person. Indeed, over recent months the numbers joining the meetings have swelled, including someone from outside the parish just interested to observe what was happening!

Whilst the usual Annual Meeting of the Parish could not go ahead due to lockdown, as things improve who knows what might be possible. We plan to provide the 'Parish in Focus' to reflect on both the challenges and successes of a year that no-one could ever possibly have imagined....and hopefully will never be repeated!

*Jan Rees*

May 2021