**Plumtree Parish Council Chairman’s Report. April 2021.**

The last 12 months have quite frankly been like none other in our lifetime. The Covid 19 pandemic has meant changes to our everyday lives that would have been previously unimaginable. We spent most of April 2020 almost totally locked down, with only limited reasons to leave our homes, and this pattern continued until the early summer, when shops, pubs, and restaurants, were once again allowed to open, albeit with significant changes to the way that they operated, and with strict rules on social distancing. However, since Christmas, we have faced further lockdowns restrictions, and many businesses have been forced to close yet again. Since March 2020, we have been forbidden to hold open parish council meetings as a matter of law and had to quickly learn to hold meetings “virtually” using Zoom. Yet we learnt quickly, adapted, and found that this new technology brought lots of benefits. We also became more neighbourly, and acts of kindness have been evident across our village, and within the wider community. It is hoped that when the pandemic passes, and it will, that kindness and looking out for each other will sustain.

The parish council in conjunction with Notts County Council, and Rushcliffe Borough Council has helped deliver improvements to the infrastructure of the village. The Burnside Hall received a grant to help it survive through the pandemic. Church Hill was resurfaced. The footpath on Bradmore Lane has just been extended to the cricket club entrance, to improve the safety of pedestrians. The latest initiative to be instigated by the parish council has been to gain approval from DCMS and BT Openreach to install high speed fibre broadband to every premises throughout Plumtree, and Normanton on the Wolds. This work is due for completion within the next 12 months.

We will continue to work in the best interests of all residents of the village and hope to be able to return to open public meetings by the end July 2021, subject to law.

Michael Bylina.

Chairman.