

Report from the Vice Chairman John Balcombe

This year progress has been made getting back to normal after the restrictions of Covid.

Meetings are now taking place in the meeting room of the parish offices, I am sure we all feel more comfortable and of course must still remain vigilant in protecting against Covid.

The office has a new member of staff, Liz Lucraft and is now fully staffed and working well under the stewardship of Mel and my favourite word 'compliant'.

Welcome to our newest Councillor Gillian Birkbeck. Gillian has been with us a short while and retains her position unopposed in the local elections.

The FASC year has been without major hitches now we have a routine for awarding grants to a few well-deserving causes, all within budget. Mel continues to pursue grant funding wherever possible. We now have a new fence and table tennis table at the Forstal Road Recreation ground thanks to outstanding Section 106 monies.

The car park in Ferryfield has been rebuilt and resurfaced through the generosity of the Gallagher family.

The 3G pitch has now been completed and is fully open. Thanks to Mel and James for their commitment in seeing this project through. As agreed, Mel managed the payments and VAT refund on behalf of the Aylesford Football Club and Football Association at no cost to the parish council.

The Christmas Fair was a great success. I thank the local committee, Mel and Lyndsey Gallagher for their time and hard work to make it work.

Major developments have started in Aylesford South, Hermitage Lane 830 mixed houses on the former Gladmans site.

Aylesford Newsprint commercial site is nearly completed.

I thank the office staff Mel, Liz and Claire for their hard work also Lee our grounds supervisor for managing our contractors and keeping our grounds in good order.

Last year we remained vigilant in managing parish finances within budget, this year is no different.