**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2023**

The present Council has now completed its second year in situ. Apart from the resignation of David O’Neill last year who was consequently replaced by Louise Taylor we have remained as a good working group with everyone doing there bit for the community.

This time last year I announced the appointment of our new clerk Graham Crompton. He has settled into the job well after consultations and mentoring by Ian Cropper.

Our Village continues to grow with the new Persimmon developments either side of the centre and into Tarleton. They have continued to work well with the council and have extended the Henry Alty Way path through its development. Ian Cropper and his group have done a wonderful job delivering this unique facility for the residents of Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.

That’s the positive side of working with developers in the village. The negative side is the long running state of affairs with the Poppyfields developers Morris Homes. Frustratingly they continue to suggest that they are providing regular maintenance however this is a basic monthly grass cut on a relatively large area which over the past 30 years has almost turned into a woodland area and is now impacting neighbouring gardens. The WLBC solicitor has now become involved and the draft transfer deed and plan for the area to be transferred from them was requested a couple of months ago but as always we continue to await their response.

The flooding committee still await the full report commissioned by H Fraser Consulting although we may here some news later on in tonight’s meeting.

The Centenary Sports Ground has seen all three clubs, Bowling, Cricket & Football clubs continuing to invest in improving their facilities. The Football Club celebrated its centenary season with the 1st team creating history by winning the coveted Lancashire Amateur Shield on coronation bank holiday Monday for the very first time. They beat Blackpool Wren Rovers 2-1 at the FA’s county ground in Leyland and became the kings of Lancashire in front of an impressive crowd of over 400 paying spectators the vast majority from our village.

Finally I had the pleasure along with Councillor John Hunter of presenting the Coronation Mugs to the school children at All Saints School. It really was a special event held in the school hall and an excellent opportunity for both the school and the Parish Council to come together for the beginning of the Coronation weekend. The whole school, children, teachers, staff and parents were present and all left after the event to celebrate the rest of the weekend in good spirits taking away their Coronation Mugs.

As Chairman I thank my Vice Chairman Richard Plant, the clerk Graham Crompton and all of the Council past and present for the hard work that they undertake for the whole community within the Parish of Hesketh-with-Becconsall.

