

Chair's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 4 April 2022

Strategy and Finance Committee

Work on the overall Strategic Plan has been deferred because of resource issues. In the next year, ATC has agreed to put all possible information into the public domain, except where there are staff or commercial confidentiality issues. We began a review of the town's Emergency Plan and a strategic plan for the future of the Cemetery – further work is required on both.

We sought to make progress on the Skatepark, Jubilee Field and Town signage. There should soon be news about the Skatepark, Jubilee Field still doesn't belong to ATC but should do imminently, and Steve Holt led the bulb planting project – the daffodils and narcissi came up this spring.

We produced a Town Council newsletter, and decided the costs of sending it out physically, both financially and environmentally, were too great. Some were printed and placed on notice boards, but the newsletter was largely accessed electronically. We aim to do this twice a year and will do so when resources allow. The Committee agreed that it wanted to host meeting recordings online, to make them easier for the public to access.

Much time was spent dealing with loss adjusters and contractors in respect of the post-fire work at the Old Courthouse building. The Minster Room (formerly the Senior Citizens Centre) has been let out and we are endeavouring to ensure the Council is charging the correct market rent in respect of its tenants.

Risk Management has been an ongoing problem; the first step was a Health and Safety audit which revealed vulnerabilities which are being addressed; we now have a contract with a Health and Safety consultancy service.

CCTV in the Town Centre is now operative and has already been consulted by the police. The image capture quality is outstanding.

We held a meeting by Zoom with the District Council Climate Change Officer. ATC wanted assistance in preparing a Council climate action plan. In time training courses are expected to become available which we will be keen to follow up.

In December the Committee agreed to ask for a 5% increase in precept over 2021-22, resulting in a Band D equivalent of £93.38, an increase of £3.26 per year. We agreed to use non-earmarked reserves before seeking further tax receipts.

Jill Farrow

31 March 2022