

Parish Meeting report 10 March 2021

It has been 12 months unlike any other for everyone. The year of Covid and lockdown.

For the city council we have not met face-to-face for a year. Instead relying on virtual meetings via Zoom... and making a contribution to the company's \$14 billion profit.

But we councillors have been busy and I would like to thank the Town Hall staff who have been working to keep our services going despite many having to go on furlough to save money as our income from renting the Ask, Crown and Market Place Post Office buildings stopped, as well as all the lettings in the Town Hall.

One good thing to come out of the Covid crisis is the strengthening of community spirit evidenced by the huge number of volunteers who came forward. Councillor Sarah Briton and I were two of the seven residents who came together in Daniel's Café a year ago to form the Wells Coronavirus Network which attracted well over 500 volunteers.

The chairs of our committees will now tell you more about our work in the last 12 months which include securing the agreement of Mendip District Council to return control of the Recreation Ground and Bishop's Barn to the city's control, persuading Post Office Ltd to keep the Market Place Post Office open for much longer than they intended, opening a new Post Office after long negotiations with Post Office Ltd.

Also we have a separate agenda item later this evening on the city council agreeing the sale of the Portway Annexe from the county council for community use, subject to contract and survey.

Cllr Philip Welch, Mayor
10.03.21