Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 4th April 2022

Mayor's Report

Cllr Richard Porch

The past two years have certainly been difficult due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Amongst other things the restrictions have meant that we have been unable to hold an annual meeting since 2019.

However, the Town Council rose to the challenge presented by these restrictions! For example, the Market was only closed for one day throughout lockdowns and free summer and half term activities were organised for children, including crafts, sports activities, and a BMX Display in the Market Square.

My chosen charities for the year are:

Uttlesford Food bank
Uttlesford Clothing bank
Opendoor counselling

Fundraising for the charities has been disrupted because of the two Covid shutdowns. However, with the exceptional support of the Town Council, charitable funds were raised in various ways including from the, Rolling Clones concert, the pre-Xmas Dance and Late-Night Shopping.

Unfortunately, some events had to be cancelled because of restrictions being brought in at short notice, most noticeably the Race Night that the local Rotary club had arranged to support the Mayoral charities. This event would have raised a considerable amount. However, not to be thwarted the Rotary club have arranged a sponsored walk in May to provide funding for the charities.

I am pleased to report that, despite the difficulties presented during the year over £12,000 has been raised to date and other organisations have paid over a further £850 directly to the charities from their fund-raising efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their tremendous support over the course of the past year. Working closely with all the staff one really comes to appreciate what an outstanding group of people we employ at the Town Council.

Particular thanks are due to the Mayoral secretary, Elaine who, with considerable patience and skill, has managed me throughout the year. Not an easy task for anyone to take on as the Mayoress can confirm.