**Chairmans Report Croft Parish Council May 2023.**

I would like to begin this report with a massive thanks to my fellow Councillors, the Clerk Helen Buckley, Jay Callas, and everyone who helped me in what has been a difficult end of year for myself. We got a tremendous amount done.

 During the year we had the Jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth recognising her 70 years of service. We had a Beacon fire at Sharpe’s farm, and I thank Cllr Philip Sharpe and Pam along with all his team for a brilliant Beacon fire that was seen for many miles around. Then despite inclement weather we held a Picnic in the Park with entertainment in the CAYAC building another wonderful day. During that time we presented every pupil at our two primary schools with a medal to remember the Jubilee which now since the death of the Queen will be an important piece of their history.

 It seems to have been a special Royal year for good news and bad when we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III on the 6th of May. The village residents once again getting involved with the celebrations with bunting displays and coming along to our Picnic in the Park on Sunday the 7th May.. During all these celebrations we received great support from our residents who sat on organising committee’s and acted as Marshal’s at the events. In July we saw a great turnout at the annual Croft Carnival. I attended the Carnival committee’s AGM where they have had a complete change of officers with the new officers once again committing the team to continuing this great event which the Parish Council fully supports.

I attended the annual Remembrance Sunday service at Christ Church then with Cllr Sharpe we laid wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council and the residents of Croft.

We have been busy throughout the year dealing with issues of concern to the residents and working on projects to improve our village. Some of these include.

1. Refurbishing and opening the public toilet block at the park. We are thankful for the support from United Utilities and local workers during this important project.
2. Installing a Commemorative Bench to Queen Elizabeth II recognising her life.
3. Installing two new Speed Indicator Signs on Heath lane that give us a monthly Data feedback which it is hoped will help the Police and Highways identify optimum times to carry out speed check operations.
4. Put in place Kick Rails and a Barrier around the CAYAC building and car park to prevent illegal parking. We received a financial grant in part funding from the Police Commissioners Community Fund which was greatly appreciated.
5. We are currently repainting and upgrading the benches throughout the village. Carrying out repairs to the playground equipment and installing new Parish Council Notice Boards.
6. We have planted 3 of 7 trees to commemorate the 70yrs of the late Queens reign. This was done through the generous support of the Mersey Forest organisation. The other 4 trees will be planted soon.
7. Because we have kept our Council finances under control, we were able to support residents at this time by agreeing no increase in the Parish Precept for this year.

The Parish Council dealt with many Planning Applications this year opposing those of concern to the Council and residents. The planning application for approximately 100 houses around Deacons Close and the rear of Croft Primary is of great concern to the residents and the Parish Council. With Borough Councillors we held a drop-in day to show residents the plans and how to object. The Parish Council will continue to object to this planning application.

It has been my honour to be your Chairman this past year and I would like to wish the incoming Chairman, the Parish Council, and the residents of Croft the very best for the future.

Cllr Paul T Campbell

Chairman

Croft Parish Council

16/5/2023