



Aldwick Parish Council Newsletter – May 2021



On the 30th March 2021 Lilian Richardson resigned her position as Chairman and as a Parish Councillor. Lilian reluctantly made this decision due to health issues in the knowledge that she would be unable to fulfill her duties to the exacting standards she set herself. We would therefore like to dedicate this newsletter to Lilian by expressing our gratitude and showing her how much she

meant to us. Lilian served the Parish Council for many years and will be well known to many Aldwick residents and local Council organisations and its members.

For the past six years, Lilian has been the Chairman and always approached her duties in a manner that filled us with pride and respect. She represented residents' concerns with all the attributes you would expect from your local councillor. If you approached her with a problem she immediately sought an answer, making sure the staff prioritised your issue until it was resolved. I know some of you reading this now will be relating to your own experiences of this strong, caring and dedicated lady, and just how good she was.

Lilian was always the first to put herself forward for the many meetings with related organisations that happen in the course of Parish Council business. Her preparation and delivery at these events was second to none and she brought the same professionalism to the many 'in house' (and recently online) meetings which the Parish Council holds. As well as her duties as Chairman of the Council, Lilian was the chair of the planning committee and nothing ever escaped her eagle eye. She had an encyclopaedic knowledge of planning law and of council procedure, which, married to her personal elegance, was a winning combination attracting the admiration of council officers and residents alike.

It's not easy being the Chairman of the council as everyone wants a bit of your time. But Lilian handled everything that came her way with grace, often taking calls late at night from councillors or residents who needed her advice and guidance. She was a true leader of people and served to inspire and motivate everyone she came in contact with. And she did all this on a voluntary basis in the spirit of service to her community. Lilian was a 'hands-on' Chairman and pre-Covid, she was often to be found in our offices, sometimes accompanied by her beloved dog, Pepper. She offered our clerks an understanding ear and often a home-baked cake, as well! Each November, Lilian led the Remembrance Service for all who fought in the wars and, as is tradition, she read the names of Aldwick servicemen and women who had died for us; those occasions were often marked by tears from those who heard that list.

Tears have also been shed by councillors and staff on hearing of Lilian's departure. We know that only the most difficult of circumstances would prevent her from continuing to serve the residents of Aldwick. She has been, without doubt, one of the very best of our councillors and she will be sadly missed by us, though of course, our door and our hearts will be forever open....

Thank you and we love you, Lilian.