

Parish Assembly Chairman's Report - 2018

I'm very pleased to report that the Parish Council realised full memberships in 2017 reaching its full capacity of seven in September. The council welcomed Peter Mailer in July, Pam Wilkie in August and Matthew Lobo in September 2017 last year.

The next parish elections will be held on May 3rd. If anyone is interested in becoming a parish councillor, see any Councillors. or the Clerk for further information or a nomination pack.

The work of the council falls into two areas -

- representing you on issues affecting the community such as planning the applications - 11 in the last year. (March 17-18) In the Autumn as you may know the PC were pressed to respond to a developer working on behalf of a resident whom had put a proposal to HDC to develop the land near the church following a Call for Site HDC Consultation in the summer. An active group of residents responded and lobbied the village and the PC to comment on this proposal on basis of lack of amenities, traffic management to name a few.
- Maintaining our open spaces - the allotments, playing field, the new cemetery and grassland

The council strategy has been shaped by the Community Plan: -

- Communication – growth of the new website along with twitter and Facebook platforms
- Development of a playing field committee consisting of volunteers who have made playing field improvements, repaired and painted fencing and generally keeping the area spic and span. A Community Payback scheme has been applied for to carry out further playing field works.
- Garden of rest – donation of a bench to be sited in the area among the fruit trees.
- Highways - application to reduce the speed on the B645 has finally commenced, improved signage including not suitable for HGV signs at ford end.
- Permissive Path to join existing R of W has been realised and enjoyed with kind permission from a land owner.

I want to thank all the village volunteers who help this village to become a more attractive and nicer place to live. There are too many to thank individually but from those individuals who simply report issues on line or via our parish clerk such as potholes and fly tipping to those support the Church Restoration, Crime and Safety, Facebook Admin team, Gardening Group, Village Hall Committee, Mondays singing group, Bridge club apologies to any I have missed. Many thanks to Maurice and Sue Lee for leading on this consistently popular community Café and funding the second village defibrillator with the help of Jenny McGlashan.

The end of February saw us organise the Annual litter pick with a fantastic 20 volunteers helping to clear 19 bags of rubbish. It was great, despite no equipment this year, volunteers worked collaboratively and used all their resources.

A lot of improvements to the village require money. The precept for 2018/19 was approved in November reflecting a small increase of 5%. Advice from both HDC and CCC is consistent with previous years - in that finding remains tight and undoubtedly services will be affected requiring the PC to do more.

District Councillor Jonathon Gray and County Councillor Ian Gardener do a sterling job at keeping HWPC informed of opportunity to shape consultations and wider county news. I would like to thank them both.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors' and Parish Clerk who have supported me in my first year as Parish Council Chairman.

Tony Baker