

Annual Parish Meeting – 10 April 2017

Chairman's Report

1. We have had a new leadership team in place this year. I took over as Chairman in May 2016. John Fudge is Vice-Chairman and Mike Miller joined us in April 2016 as Parish Clerk. I would like to place on record at this meeting my warm thanks to my predecessor, Tony Bennett. Tony has served our community with huge energy and commitment for many years. Our thanks are also due to Roy Young, Vice-Chairman last year, and to Mike Miller, who stood down as Clerk at the end of March.
2. I also want to thank all members of the Council for their voluntary unpaid work for the community over the last year. John Hiles joined the Council in February 2017, after Jerry Fry had to resign because of work commitments, which made it hard for him to get to our meetings.
3. Our thanks are also due to Briony Sharp, who decided to step down from the role of Footpath Warden last summer. Briony worked tirelessly for many years to try to keep our paths open and in good order. Her commitment to the job will be sorely missed. We have not yet replaced Briony, but the Council has defined the role and approved a job specification, and an appointment will be made soon.
4. The Council has been working on a number of projects and issues over the last year:
 - (i) We have representation on the Lower Otter Restoration Project Stakeholder Group, and we are monitoring developments and lobbying for the Parish's best interests;
 - (ii) We have responded positively to proposals for a telecoms mast at Stantyway Recreation Ground. If this goes ahead it will make a significant difference to mobile phone reception, and there will be funding, which we can put to good use. There is also the possibility of a mast being fixed in the church tower;
 - (iii) We are in discussions with EDDC to make use of Section 106 funding, which the Parish is entitled to, to improve and develop the children's playground;

- (iv) We have agreed to make a small seed-corn grant to the football club to help them upgrade facilities at Stantyway. This is dependent on the club making applications to secure funds from other bodies;
- (v) We have appointed a new Internal Auditor – David Hinchliffe. Our thanks are due to Joan Cullen, who has carried out this job for several years;
- (vi) We have reinstated the volunteer working party to tackle maintenance work around the village. So far we have worked on the Park Lane footpath, and dealing with vegetation growth. All volunteers are welcome; we usually publicise these days in the Parish News and on the notice boards;
- (vii) We have initiated the work on a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a very important project. Ian Birch will give us an update shortly.

5. A number of other projects have been concluded:

- (i) We have bought a new notice board for Cross trees. This can be used by all residents. Our thanks are due to Iain Ure who made a major contribution towards the cost of the board;
- (ii) We have secured funding from the Parishes Together Fund for plant and animal signage (in conjunction with Woodbury) and will be putting the first signs on the river path;
- (iii) EDDC has reorganised the dog waste and litter bins in the village; they took our advice on a number of issues;
- (iv) We have secured over one thousand pounds from the County Council for flood resilience work; most of this money is being used to buy a portable sandbag filler;
- (v) We are financially solvent – details of our finances will be given next;
- (vi) We have a new Clerk, Fran Mills, and we are looking forward to working with her.

6. Regretfully, because of work pressures, I will be standing down as Chairman in May. The Council will elect a new Chairman then.