

MISSON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report – 2016/17

This is my sixth Annual Report as Chairman and at last year's meeting Cllr Wooliams was again unanimously elected as Vice Chairman.

As we now have an active website which has been an enormous help in keeping residents informed, I intend to make this a much shorter report.

- 1. Tunnel Tech** – We are still working with BDC and Tunnel Tech to further reduce the odour emissions but progress isn't as speedy as we would like. Simon Middlebrook came to a recent meeting and although improvements have taken place, unfortunately BDC have not imposed any sort of time line on the work and consequently this has resulted in TTN having too much flexibility. We have, therefore, requested that David Armiger attends the meeting on June 7th to update residents about the measures they are taking to speed up the process. However, it is still important that residents should continue to report any unacceptable odours so that we can continue to hold both BDC and TTN to account.
- 2. Grants** - I would like to thank both Annette Simpson and Liz Yates for their help in procuring grants for the Parish and also for their support and advice in our meetings.
- 3. Neighbourhood Plan** – David Hobson and the NP Steering Group have been successful in producing and getting the Plan passed and now it has to go to Referendum which will be open to everyone in the community. I really cannot thank David and his team enough for all their hard work and expertise.
- 4. Broadband** – Last year I reported that there had been some progress in bringing fibre optic broadband into the village and we had expected that it would be up and running by the end of 2017. Unfortunately despite the assurances the date has now been put back again and although the rollout will begin in September 2017 it could be as late as 2018 when it finally arrives. However, today I finally managed to speak to the person responsible at NCC and he has agreed to keep the PC updated with developments and will also come out and explain the process when it begins in September. I feel this is positive as we now have a contact point which always makes a difference.
- 5. Fracking** – I would like to thank Jayne for taking the steer on this very complex issue' On 5/11.2016 NCC granted planning consent to IGAS to drill two exploratory wells at Springs Road. This is subject to 37 planning conditions and a complex Section 106 Agreement. The PC worked very hard on the responses to both the planning application and the subsequent Regulation 22 requests. We felt there was a good case for refusal but voting was 7-4 in favour. We now await the completion of the Section 106 between IGAS, NCC and other involved bodies. This is due on May 31st having been extended 4 times since January 5th. The main sticking point is the establishment of the details related to the restoration bond that was imposed by NCC as part of the Section 106.

If it is achieved by this date then site construction and drilling could begin in Autumn 2017.

The Community Liaison Group, of which Jayne is a member remains in place as part of the 106 with the agreement that it continues to be chaired by an elected member of the group. This was an important step. We intend to ensure that will be a forum which will enable the community to hold IGas and the regulatory bodies to account rather than a “tick box exercise”. I would like to thank Peter Edwards and Simon Gledhill for the amount of support they have provided on the CLG, with planning responses and the presentations to the Planning Committee. The next meeting will be held once the Section 106 has been signed off.

Meanwhile we continue to communicate with both NCC and IGas and work closely with NWT. Unfortunately, our challenge to the non-disclosure of the legal advice relating to the restrictive covenant at the site was not successful and we did not feel that we had a strong enough case to take to the Information Commissioner. The most recent development is the publication of the groundwater monitoring results by IGas. This monitoring must be carried out for the full twelve months before any fracking takes place to provide baseline readings. Although the raw data is very detailed and complex, we are seeking an expert to help us understand its significance.

Once the Section 106 Agreement is agreed there will be a CLG meeting and IGas will be able to provide us with a more definite timeline. We will then arrange a further village meeting and hopefully their representatives will be in attendance.

6. Heritage Project – I would like to thank Julie and everyone else who was involved in the Project. The village signs and the lectern have enhanced the look of the green and the entrance to the village in both directions. They were certainly worth all the hard work.

7. Misson Community Association – The MCA has worked hard in organising village events including the Christmas Lunch; Yarn bomb and the very moving Remembrance Morning on the Green. They now have a new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and I’m sure the Association is in very good hands. Recently, the MCA also organised a very successful Village Spring Clean and I would like to thank all the residents who took part and particularly Reg and Wendy for their hard work in arranging and directing operations. Everything ran very smoothly and I would like to thank Misson W.I and everyone else who contributed to the lovely refreshments.

However, I would also like to thank the previous Officials and Committee members of the MCA who have put in so much time and effort in the past and have been instrumental in making the village what it is today.

Finally I want to thank my fellow councillors for their support and to Andy for acting as Vice Chair when required. In addition I would like to thank Sarah for her support over the past year as she has dealt efficiently with a variety of very complicated issues. As always I would like to thank you the residents who turn up in all weathers and take an interest in what is happening and alert us to problems which might otherwise be missed.

Viv Shilling, Chairman.