

It gives me pleasure to present my annual report of the Stansted Parish Council for 2016/17

#### Planning

During the year we have had 30 applications submitted of which were 21 approved or had no objection, 2 withdrawn, 3 refused and 3 are awaiting a decision. This trend is in line with previous years.

#### Rural broadband

After 4 years for reporting on superfast broadband, I am pleased to advise that the Call Flow solution has now been implemented and both Fairseat and Stansted can receive speeds of upto 100 Megabytes. The challenge now is to make sure that the community is aware if the superfast broadband

#### The school

A significant amount of parish time and resources have been spent fighting the Rochester Dioecian Board of Education to regain title to the Parish land next to the school. They had claimed adverse possession on parish land and took nearly a year until they backed down and stopped contesting title to the land. The cost to the parish in reserve employing professionals to support the Parish Council's position was significant and has resulted in a record precept increase as we look to rebuild these reserves.

With regards this sorry episode three people outside of the council need to be thanks, Tom Sheldon and Sir Robert Nelson for investing significant time into the issue. Harry Rayner our new county Councillor for kindly providing a donation towards some of the costs for the fight.

#### Thanks and welcome

Stansted and Fairseat is an amazing community that looks after its own and as seen with the school is full of fine spirited people who will give up time and resources to help the community as a whole. There are too many to thank individually but I do not, however I will thank and welcome the following by name:

A big welcome and congratulations to Harry Rainer for becoming our new newly elected county councillor. Harry has some large shoes to fill with the departure of Sarah Hohler who has moved on to another ward and has given sterling service to the Parish for well over 20 years. We wish Sarah all the best and cannot thank her enough for all the hard work and dedication she has given to Stansted Parish.

Also thanks should go to our Borough Councillors Martin Coffin and Robin Betts, parish councillors and our Clerk Mrs Roxana Brammer who all work tirelessly in front and behind the scenes to make things happen and keep the parish running.