

Chairman's Report - May 2018

Thank you to all my fellow Councillors, including new members who have joined us, for all the support that you have given to the Parish Council during the past year. We are very pleased to have seen our District or County Councillors on such a regular basis this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Kellaway for cutting the grass on the Village Green and to Chris Haskett for continuing to look after the grass in the Playground. The Parish Council would also like to thank all those who help to look after the Village Hall and organise events for the village to enjoy.

Public attendance at Parish Council Meetings continues to be varied, with good numbers when there is a particular issue under discussion that concerns residents.

There have been a variety of planning applications in the parish, most of which have been successful. Some have been very slow to be considered by the planning department of the district council, often this is where listed buildings are concerned. The parish council is still disappointed to note that the district council takes little or no notice of what the parish council may comment.

Following extensive renovation the Rivers Arms has reopened and is functioning very successfully and to the great appreciation of the whole village and many visitors from beyond the parish. They have now also been granted permission to erect 7 bedroom cabins in the pub garden. Several residents from the village also have employment in the pub. Many thanks to Victor and Ann for all their continuing hard work.

Water flow in the stream has been varied, with a long dry spell during the second half of last year. After enquires with the Environment Agency it has been established that the dryness has been the result of seriously low rainfall during 2017. There has been no flooding since the last Chairman's report. Sandbags for the use of any house in the village are still stored at Meyden Revel. Many thanks to Geoff Hotblack who has continued to keep a close eye on water levels to check and deliver for flood warnings.

The Cheselbourne Helpline continues to work well. The defibrillator has been set up outside the Village Hall in its porch. Many thanks to Sara Timlin for organising this and for the training courses for those willing to be first responders. Whilst we hope it will never be needed in an emergency, it is a great facility for the village to be able to call upon.

The Neighbourhood Speedwatch continues to flourish. We now have a speed gun and groups have been out using it, with three reports of excess speed having been reported. It is hoped that an awareness of its existence and use will encourage those who pass through the village to keep an eye on their speed. Many thanks to Robin Maslin and Steve Tomlinson for their work on this.

I would also like to thank Simon and Hannah Roberts and Brian Bere for organising the putting up and decoration of the Christmas tree which once again has been a great success.

This is a time of great change in the parish council, with two councillors and the clerk standing down. We hope that new councillors can be quickly found from the parish, and that they will soon find what an interesting and rewarding activity it can be. We also hope to have a new clerk shortly.

Tiggy Greenwood

Chairman