

COLLINGHAM *Parish Council*

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR PARISH MEETING OF 14.04.16.

April 2015 to March 2016 has been another eventful year for the Parish.

As the four year election term came to an end. At our April 2015 meeting we said goodbye our two District Councillors, Mel Shaw and Richard Shillito, with thanks for their service and assistance for many years.

Three Parish Councillors had decided not to stand again Celia Moody, Gary Norcott and Terry Ozbourne and again we thank them for their contribution to parish life. Before an election is the time to say thank you to everyone for all they have done, no-one can predict election results.

Following the May elections 4 new councillors were elected with 6 councillors returning with 2 new District Councillors returned for NSDC.

The changes went on when Stuart Dove resigned in October and Jane Guest was elected as a councillor in the by-election in January. Stuart Dove had been on the Council since 2007 and was always a source of information about Collingham.

Much 'building' work has taken place since April, 71 High Street was refurbished, the renewal of the play equipment in the Community Park was carried out,, a new website was built, the Village Centre car park completed and a new LCS store opened, all 4 defibrillators were installed and the Jubilee Room refurbished.

71 High Street was a joint project with Nottinghamshire County Council Library Service. We now have use of office space for the Parish Clerk and a store for our current archives. The official opening was in September 2015 and we have a much improved building in the Village Centre. A Library is much more than a place to borrow books and it seems fitting that ours is at the heart of Collingham.

The refurbishment of the play equipment was completed in April 2015. New fencing and gates were installed and over the summer months new seating and tables. There were negotiations with Hags-SMP over the failure of the zip wire mound and these were successfully concluded leading to the removal of the mound and new ramps fitted. The official opening ceremony was in September with several of our grant awarders, sponsors and donors attending. Our thanks go to everyone who made this refurbishment possible, the committee met for over 2 years and carried out 12 public consultations.

Our excellent website was built during the early part of this by the Parish Clerk, Caron Ballantyne with the support of Tim Musson. Because of this we fulfilled all the regulations on Openness and Transparency. We have links to the 'What's on in Collingham' Facebook page and Twitter. Emails are sent out to subscribing residents. Noticeboards are used throughout the Parish. Hard copies of minutes and policies are available online, by request or for reference in the Library.

The car park in the Village Centre was completed and expanded to accommodate the new LCS store, opened in October.

Gradually over the summer and into the autumn all 4 defibrillators were installed and linked to EMAS. The provision of defibrillators came from the First Aid courses organised by Stella Herbert as part of the Emergency Committee's work. Our volunteer Flood Wardens are part of this Committee and I would like to thank all of the committee, comprising councillors, past and present, Collingham Fire Service and volunteers for their work. If the weather is good their work and training passes unnoticed.

In December the Jubilee Room was refurbished and is now under the management of Collingham and District Local History Society, who store the older archives and resources for the Parish, as well as being a thriving local History Society.

All of this has happened alongside the more 'routine' part of parish life; full council meetings, being a statutory consultee for planning, managing the finances according to the latest rules, regulations and legislation, training for the role of Councillor and Clerk, training for Flood Wardens and being part of other committees with both formal and informal links to the parish and community. Speed watch, managing public rights of way, and the management of South End Cemetery are all part of the Parish Council's work. There is Parish Council representation on the Safer Neighbourhood Group, liaison group with Tarmac, the Newark Municipal Charity, the Memorial Hall Committee and the Youth and Community Centre Management Committee.

For the future, there are capital projects to finish. The Library Service is now a charity named 'Inspire' and we are discussing the possibility of becoming a 'Community Library Partnership' with Inspire. Phase II of the Community Park refurbishment of the skateboard park is now required. All this is against a background of ever-tightening financial belts, including the grant sector, and it appears more rules, regulations, and legislation. Devolution for the North Midlands looms. There will be a change of roles within the Parish Council following the May Annual Meeting.

Nothing would have been possible in the last year without the work of so many people, our Clerk, Caron, who makes sure we all keep to the rules, regulations and legislation, maintains our excellent website and keeps our finances in order. Parish Clerk is such a small title for all the work that is needed throughout the year.

I would like to thank everyone who does so much for our community, residents who are Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors, volunteers on committees and in community groups; advisers such as Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire, and the officers of Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. Nothing would be achieved or could be achieved without our residents. My thanks are both personal and on behalf of the Parish Council.

Rosie Scott

14 April, 2016.