

2017 Chairman's Report

The Parish Council consists of myself as the Chairman and I am also one of the Council representatives on the West Trust; Ken Green who is the Vice Chairman and heads up the Footpaths Committee and has responsibility for the Website; Debbie Levy leads the Planning Committee; Mike Wells who runs our Speedwatch activities and also works on our website, Paul Whitton who monitors Fly Tipping, Barbara Jackson who leads the pond restoration project and our Defibrillator team, and Lesley Smith who is our Parish Clerk.

We also have a new Councillor, Kevin Ludgate, who having lived in the Parish all his life brings a wealth of knowledge to the Council. Kevin's responsibility is Police liaison.

As always the past year has been a very active one for the Parish Council. In case you are not aware we do a lot of work behind the scenes. We work on a voluntary basis trying to do as much as we can for our local community. As well as our monthly meetings and individual responsibilities we attend local and area meetings where decisions can be made that affect our Parish. We lobby MP's and local councillors, we defend the rural nature of our community, we encourage and support local activities, we look for ways of improving facilities and the infrastructure, we strive to keep our community spirit and, as your representatives, we listen to you.

We continue to pressure Highways to repair our roads, get our street lights working, cut back overgrown bushes and trees and clear pathways. It is a constant battle with CBC to get work done – we have street lights that have been not working for years, potholes in Church Lane not filled, other potholes in the Parish, etc. As a Council, we do all we can to get the work done.

Our Precept this year is £7,020. About a quarter of our precept we receive from you goes straight back into our community in the form of grants and awards. We keep a third for contingencies and the rest is used in the running of the Council activities.

The accounts can be viewed on our website or via the Clerk.

Mike is leading our Speedwatch Campaign. We are out on Toddington Road, Wingfield Road and Tebworth Road. We are limited to where we can use the speed sign because of Health and Safety. Please speak to Mike if you want to know more or to volunteer. We are aware that the VAS on Toddington Road is not working. We are looking at the cost of repair or replacement but we will wait until we know if there will be a 20 MPH speed limit through Tebworth when the Link Road is open.

The A5/M1 link will be opened this year and there will be a 7.5 tonne weight limit through our Parish and surrounding area. It will not happen immediately as Highways have to put up 5000 signs in South Beds.

You may be aware of the controversy with Tebworth Great Pond. The Parish Council strongly feel that the pond belongs to our community. We have lots of evidence going back to 1950 of community groups working on the Pond. We have done - or I should say Lesley Smith has done - extensive research on the ownership of the pond and have discovered that no one owns the Pond. The Parish Council has put in an application with Land Registry to own the Pond on behalf of the community. Once that happens we can then complete our planned work. We have a small team working on this – if you would like to help please speak to Barbara.

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area. However, there are break-ins and burglaries so please make sure that doors and windows are locked and outbuildings are secure. Please report anything that you think is suspicious and report any crimes.

Central Beds Council have a number of on-line consultations over the year on a variety of subjects. We respond to them on your behalf but we are concerned that one or two of them should also be responded to by individuals.

Finally the Millennium Youth and the Community Awards for the past year. We need nominations. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement or community service. The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under and is a 'well done' for academic or sporting achievement, contribution to the community, overcoming difficulties, or other significant achievement The Community Award is for over 18s and is a 'thank you' for service to the community. If you have a nomination please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the councillors.

You are invited to any of our meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7:30. Minutes of our meetings are posted on the Chalgrave Parish Council website and on the notice boards.

Phil Parry
Chairman