

Chairman's Report 2017/18.

This year has been a difficult and busy one with the sad news of the passing of the Parish Clerk, Barbara Raven on September 30th 2017. She had been Parish Clerk for 30 years. Thanks went to Paula Purslow who stepped in to cover Barbara's position in an acting role from July 2017, until she was made permanent after applying for the position, in February 2018. She has had a steep learning curve and has dealt with a new set of skills in a very short time.

There was also a resignation of Cllr Mike Wilkins in January 2018. Thanks to Mike for his efforts of the past few years.

Welcome goes to Cllr Anna Shantry who was co-opted onto the PC in April 2018. We therefore have one vacancy on the PC, for Yatesbury ward which we are looking for volunteers.

The highlights of my first year as Chair are how well everyone pulled together to cover the workload with two Councillors positions vacant for some of the year. Also, the purchase and installation of 2 defibrillators in Cherhill and Yatesbury and the positive way both villages' residents contributed financially with a total of £2181 raised, covering fully the shortfall in the grant. Amazing efforts! Also thanks to Cllr David Evans for much of the work to get the defibrillators.

Other highlights from his year are the way we are getting the Parish Council to work more efficiently and bring all our processes up to date to be more transparent. Thanks go to Cllr John Cavanagh for driving this compliance process through but we still have a way to go!

The Parish Steward has been busy in both villages filling pot holes and clearing gullies and the process seems to be working well. Also the Wiltshire Council Online reporting has been good with fly tipping being collected very promptly.

Another highlight was the cleaning of the Cherhill White Horse which involved some villagers and the National Trust volunteers. It is still looking good!

The finances of the PC have been brought more up to date by the sterling work of

Cllr Simon Tomlinson and the new Parish Clerk. There are accurate spreadsheets and a budget forecast. There has been no increase in the Precept this year which is a good thing for all residents as the overall Council Tax went up quite steeply.

Cllr Dave Grafton and the Chair have been involved with the Calne Area Parish Forum where a WW1 Tree Planting Working Group have designated a field near Calne to plant up to 400 trees to commemorate the fallen . The same will hopefully be done for Yatesbury and Cherhill with 8 trees in each village for the fallen. Location still to be decided.

The CATG have approved funding for some speed awareness gates and signage for Yatesbury to try and slow drivers down as speeding is an issue in both villages.

Tommy Croker Playing Field - The PC continues to support this well used facility. We are grateful to John Ashcroft for his stewardship and maintenance of the field and would encourage people to join the committee!

The Countryside Access Group has been meeting over the year although the weather has been unkind for much of the year. At the most recent meeting some crushed hardcore for Jugglers Lane is to be approved by the PC as well as the use of the CCTV Camera to identify fly tippers and illegal car activity. Thanks to Cllr Dave Grafton for running this group.

Also thanks to Cllr David Evans for helping with the movement of files and paperwork from Barbara's house to the new Parish Clerk and for continuing good work with the Parish Council's quarterly newsletter.

All in all we have achieved lots of progress within the Parish Council over 2017/18 and look forward to the challenges 2018/19 will bring.

Martin Purslow

Chair – Cherhill Parish Council

2/5/18

