

Chairman's Report 2018/19

This year has been a very busy one, with much happening and good achievements made by the Parish Council.

JR Auvray was welcomed as a Cllr onto the Parish Council in December 2018 and Cllr Anna Shantry resigned from the Parish Council in March 2019. We therefore have one vacancy on the PC, for Cherhill Ward which, at time of writing might be filled shortly.

The highlights of this year have been getting the Parish Council on to Online Banking and therefore being able to pay bills far more quickly. We also organised two defibrillator awareness courses, for both Yatesbury and Cherhill, and the PC facilitated the refurbishment of the Yatesbury old BT telephone box – having received a kind donation from Peter Carroll from Le Roc for £200, and a Yatesbury resident, Chris Stilwell, kindly funded the rest. Both Chris and his son Paul worked very hard to get it done!

A contentious issue with an overgrown permissive footpath (Red Barn) was resolved (with the help of Cllr Dave Grafton) and £750 was spent in cutting back overhanging bushes, so that both horses and pedestrians could share access up to the monument/White Horse. Horse access will be voluntarily restricted during the Winter months and this seems to have worked well.

Other highlights from this year are that we completed getting the Parish Council compliance documents up to date – including Data Breach Policy, Privacy Notice, Risk Assessment Policy, Standing Orders (2018 version) and the Press and Media Protocol document. Thanks go to Cllr John Cavanagh for driving this compliance process!

Some other achievements were the improving of the traffic calming measures on Marsh Lane in Cherhill, and the approval by CATG in February 2019 of the gates, Village sign and calming measures for Yatesbury. We also placed a wooden sign for the Village Hall, Manor and Church in Yatesbury to help stop large lorries using the road in error.

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 effective with fly tipping being collected very promptly.

During the year Cllr Simon Tomlinson raised the issue of the purpose of the Parish Council in the modern world and how we could better reach the local community. Some useful discussions have taken place and good progress has been made with results hopefully in 2019/20.

The finances of the PC have been accurate and professionally done by Cllr Simon Tomlinson and Paula Purslow Parish Clerk. There has been a small increase in the Precept this year, of £500 making our precept £8000. This was mostly due to the cutbacks by Wiltshire Council; many tasks undertaken by them have stopped and have to be funded by the PC currently.

Regarding the 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!

Also thanks to Cllr David Evans for continuing good work with the Parish Council's quarterly newsletter and running the Good Neighbours scheme and liaising with villagers on the Neighbourhood watch scheme.

I have decided, at this time, to stand down as Chair of the Parish Council and wish the new Chair all the best for the coming year.

All in all we have achieved lots of progress within the Parish Council over 2018/19 and look forward to the challenges 2019/20 will bring.

Martin Purslow

Chair – Cherhill Parish Council

10/5/19