

## **Chairman's Report for Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

The annual parish meeting gives an opportunity to look over the previous 12 months activities.

### **Parish Council elections in May 2015**

The Parish Council elections in May 2015 returned 8 elected councillors and we were able to welcome two new councillors - Jane Midwood and John Barton. At the 2015 Annual Parish council meeting, a new Chairman, Kerry Merritt, and vice chairman, Paul Couzens were appointed. Unfortunately, Chairman Kerry Merritt stood down as the Chairman due to health problems in December 2015 but has remained as a Councillor. Vice Chairman Paul Couzens was elected to the Chair in January 2016 and I was elected to the position of Vice Chairman.

The Estates committee welcomed a new lay member after the May 2015 elections and has continued to be busy during the year.

### **Meetings**

During the last year the Parish Council has:

- held 11 full Council meetings and 6 Estates Committee meetings.
- considered 22 planning applications
- signed 146 cheques for services to the village
- transferred £2097 to MSC for recycling bottles and paper

### **What have we done since the last Annual Parish meeting?**

#### **Playgrounds**

- After a considerable amount of time and effort, particularly by our County Councillor Mary Evans, the Bury Road playground has now been transferred to the Parish Council and a deed of gift is awaited to complete the procedure. Regular weekly inspections will be put in place in the same way as the main playground is checked.
- The main playground has recently undergone a clean of the equipment to remove green algae as a safety precaution, and is now looking "good as new". Some vandalism/theft has occurred in the ball park play area but this damage has been made safe. Discussions are continuing as to what improvements could be made to the teen project to ensure its continuing popularity.
- Additional safety notices have been installed warning parents of the possible incidence of footballs reaching the playground when adult footballers are using the facilities.

### **Village litter picks**

- A litter pick took place in November 2015 and March 2016. The March litter pick, being “clean for the queen” was well attended with a slightly later start date proving to be more popular. Again Barbara Merritt was in attendance with well-earned refreshments to all that took part - squash and special biscuits for the children! Thank you to Barbara and everyone who took part.

### **Donations**

- Have been made to various charitable organisations and the Over 60's Christmas Party. The MSC committee have received a donation towards the refurbishment of the kitchen.

### **Cemetery**

- Plans have been made for a Memorial Garden using the part of the old cemetery and clearance work has started. This will be a peaceful, informal space for quiet remembrance and seating placed along mown paths.

### **Ongoing Issues:**

- Flooding in the village has been addressed by a contractor being booked to clean the pond and ditches at Coltsfoot Green. A meeting has been held with representatives from Suffolk County Council with a view to taking action at Attleton Green.
- Care of village greens has been a high priority this year with additional work to cut back trees and hedges at Moor Green, Attleton Green and Genesis Green.
- Lighting on the footpath from MSC to Browns Close should have been installed in this last twelve month period but is scheduled to be done as soon as possible.
- Speeding in the village is being monitored by a VAS machine that has five locations and takes a record of the speed vehicles are reaching as they pass. This information can then be reported and may result in the instigation of a police speed check.
- The highways online reporting tool has proved to be an excellent way to report matters quickly to achieve the fastest possible action from the Highways Department.

- Dog fouling has continued to be a problem but the introduction of bag dispensers, to accompany the dog waste bins, on the rec and 6 acres has seen a reduction in fouling. Long may that continue!

### **Change of clerk**

2015 saw the retirement of our clerk, Roger Medley, who has worked tirelessly, sometimes on difficult Parish matters, over the last 10 years. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank him for all the support he has given to all of us, and the village, during that time, and hope that he is now enjoying all the extra free time. It is well earned.

We welcomed our new clerk, Sonya Thorburn, in November, working alongside Roger for 3 months to get an idea of what the clerk's position entails. She is undergoing her CiLCA training – a challenging course covering some 200 hours. I hope Sonya is enjoying her interesting, and challenging, role.

### **Forthcoming attraction**

I must mention the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 12:00 noon. Please bring your own picnic and wear colourful clothes so we can all stand out in the historic village photo.

It WILL be a sunny day

### **And Finally.....**

**On behalf of the Chairman I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support during the last year**