

## HNPC Vice - Chair's Report 2018 - AJW

The last 12 months have seen a number of changes on the Parish Council itself – with the resignation of Emma Kane as Chair – a position she filled with great enthusiasm and commitment. We were also greatly saddened at the passing of Brian Griggs – who was incredibly dedicated to this village and did a huge amount of work – even when his health was failing.

Over the last year the Parish Council have continued to be active in ensuring that standards within the Parish have been maintained or improved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, and in particular to thank our Parish Clerk – Mrs Rosemary Watts – who does an unbelievable amount of work behind the scenes. I'd also like to thank our County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Hugo Brown for keeping us updated with their regular reports and attending our meetings whenever possible. Thanks must also go to members of the public who attend our regular monthly meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7.30, War Memorial Hall).

We have taken on board all of the suggestions that are routinely sent to us, and in most of these instances have been able to action them – from on-going improvements to the War Memorial Hall to better play facilities for the children, a tree survey and associated maintenance work, and an attempt to preserve the various 'green areas' within the village. This is something which will need a particular focus as we go forward, with increased population and the associated traffic problems.

Work has begun on the new Gladman Estate – and we hope that the contractors take up our suggestions for a safer vehicular entry point to this new development. The PC has not yet 'adopted' the new estates on Bourne Lane or Stanton. Indeed, Taylor Wimpey have not yet even opened the new play area on the Bourne Lane Estate.

We have continued to pay a grant to Oxfordshire County Council, in order to contribute to the cost of the library and ensure that all villagers can benefit from having such an amenity. We also spend a considerable proportion of the funding available to us on grass cutting – now that OCC no longer provide a reasonable service due to their internal budget cuts. The Parish Council have had no option but to take on increased areas and increased frequency of cutting – which obviously costs more. We also have an on-going program in place to eradicate Japanese knotweed throughout the village.

Wendy Gordon has been a superb Parish Warden to date, and it is her efforts that are contributing to keeping our beautiful village looking so good. We have added yet more dog bins, moved the glass recycling bottle banks to the Sports and Social Ground and planted hundreds more spring bulbs within the village.

We all believe that these are essential services for the village and will continue to support these and any other services that may be under threat.

Incredible Edible Hooky has increased the number of garden beds around the village – please ensure you are making the most of this wonderful free produce!

We appreciate villagers bringing items to our attention, and will endeavour, as always to provide solutions where possible. If you have any constructive suggestions please get in the touch with the Parish Council – email and telephone numbers are on the village website and on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Memorial Hall. Please note there are now new email addresses due to new data protection legislation.

Amanda Watkins  
Vice Chair HNPC  
12 April 2018