

GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report May 2018

Thank you for coming this evening. It has been a busy 12 months with a number of issues being discussed and resolved at the Council's monthly meetings.

Your Parish Council has commented on 19 planning applications and 20 tree works applications as well as important local authority consultations, in particular the NPA's Recreation Management Strategy and the Local Plan 2016-2036, for which I would like to thank Ann Cakebread for her thorough research and drafting of responses for the Parish Council to consider and approve.

The Council welcomed one new councillor, Claire O'Brien, who has already regularly represented the Council at the important meetings of the Western Escarpment Steering Group.

In September, Colin Draper sadly resigned from the Council due to family commitments. He had been the Chairman of the Council for many years and made a tremendous contribution to the village and its community during those years. On behalf of the Council I would like to say thank you to Colin for all his efforts and we all hope he will return to the Council sometime in the future when he is able to continue that work.

There are several key issues on which the Parish Council continues to work:

- The still unresolved improvement to the broadband service for the remaining parts of the village which didn't benefit from the Sandy Balls upgrade. Cllr Lintonbon spent another year on this project including the recent submission of over 50 addresses sent to the Clerk by residents in order to apply to Hampshire County Council for funding through the Council's Community Match Funding Scheme and the BT Community Fund Partnership. Progress is still painfully slow but Robert will continue to pursue every avenue and I would like to thank him on behalf of the Council for all his efforts.
- Sandy Balls – Following the change of ownership, the new owners 'Away Resorts' held an exhibition in September setting out their future vision for Sandy Balls which, on the whole, was well attended and well received by residents. The Council, through Cllr Pomphrey, will continue to liaise on a regular basis with Clare Watkins, the General Manager, to raise matters of interest and concern and to try to resolve any concerns before they become problems. The Council was also pleased to welcome the Managing Director, Carl Castledine, at two of its meetings over the last year at which he emphasised the company's desire to upgrade the facilities at the holiday centre whilst also working with and taking account of the views of the community, which was pleasing to hear.

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- Speeding – After several false starts, the trial of the Speed Limit Repeater Signs in the Southampton Road finally took place in March and April with the data from the Speed Indicator Device still being collated by New Forest District Council. The Parish Council has reserved some funds to purchase two SLR's to be erected on the posts already installed and a decision will be taken on whether to purchase them once the data has been received and reviewed.

In addition to attending regular meetings of the Parish Council, your councillors attend the meetings of several other organisations such as the Village Hall Committee, the New Forest Consultative Panel and the Western Escarpment Steering Group. They also attend various meetings of relevance to Godshill parish outside the village such as the New Forest Association of Local Councils.

With regard to this Village Hall, an enormous amount of effort has been put in by the Hall Committee over the last year to boost its income and users and I would like to thank Cllr Williams for all her work with the Hall Committee as well as encourage everyone to support it as much as they possibly can.

The Council has assisted the Hall Committee in obtaining a £4,000 grant for repairs to the roof from Cleansing Services Group and by match funding a grant of £600 for the roof from District Council Bill Dow. Furthermore, in September, the Council approved a contribution of £650 towards the cost of the removal of woodworm in the Hall's loft, in January it planted a hedge on the northern boundary of the car park and in March arranged for the Lengthsman to trim, cut back and tidy the overgrown bushes and hedges around the car park.

I have worked with Bob Pomphrey on inspecting and improving the parish footpaths over the last year and I'd like to thank Bob for his efforts in reporting issues and for repairing some of the gates which he will continue to do over the next few months.

Despite a difficult year, our Litter Warden Sara Boyd has continued her tireless work to keep the village clear of litter. The recent Annual Litter Pick, which she arranges, was again a great success and we all very much appreciate her efforts and those of her family. She also manages to find the time to keep the pinch points planted up and looking bright and cheerful for residents and visitors.

On behalf of the members of the Parish Council I would like to thank our Clerk, Bev Cornish, for all her work over the last year and for her support and guidance to me over the last 6 months whilst I've been learning my new role.

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Lastly, having thanked everyone on the Council I would like to express everyone's thanks to our County Councillor, Edward Heron and our District Councillor, Bill Dow, for all their efforts on our behalf. We look forward to working with them and for you over the next year.

Thank you.

Richard Fell, Chairman, Godshill Parish Council