

# GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Report April 2015

Thank you for coming this evening. It has been a busy 12 months again with many different issues being discussed and resolved at our monthly meetings.

The Parish Council has commented on a number of important local authority and government consultations, in particular for Parish Polls, household recycling centres and the National Park Management Plan. The Parish Council also commented on 15 planning and 15 tree work applications.

A large part of the year was taken up with investigating the purchase of the land next to the Village Hall which was put to a Parish Vote run by the New Forest District Council in December. The Village decided against proceeding with the purchase but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Cakebread for her extensive and excellent work on this project and also Cllr Lintonbon for his valuable contribution.

There are a number of issues on which the Parish Council continues to work:

- Firstly, the continued improvement to broadband reception for those residents who aren't connected to the Sandy Balls green box which went live last Autumn. Cllr Lintonbon has worked tirelessly again on this project throughout the year, liaising with BT Openreach, many residents and our Hampshire County Council member, Cllr Edward Heron. Thank you again, Robert, for all your hard work on the parish's behalf.
- Mass cycling in the Forest - The Parish Council has continued to work with the NPA's Cycling Liaison Group. The Cycling Code was adopted by not the Organisers' charter, which requires a cap of 1,000 per day and legible identification numbers, has yet to be accepted by the cycling organisations. Hopefully progress will be made on this in the coming year. I'd like to thank Cllr Cakebread for her work on this issue.
- Lastly, SpeedWatch. You will have seen in the Parish Council's recent newsletter that we are asking for residents to put themselves forward again if they are interesting in volunteering for the Speedwatch scheme. The Council has been offered the opportunity to purchase some equipment from Bramshaw Parish Council. If enough volunteers come forward, a scheme will be set up with Hampshire Police.

In addition to attending regular meetings of the Parish Council, your councillors attend the meetings of many other organisations such as the Village Hall Committee, the New Forest Consultative Panel and, in particular, the Police Liaison Committee to which Cllr Richard Fell has made a valuable contribution. They also attend various meetings of relevance to Godshill parish outside the village.

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One of the more memorable meetings was held last November. As a way of commemorating the 100 years of the Great War the Parish Council organised a talk by Lt Col Graham Parker, a renowned speaker on the Great War, who gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk to a packed Village Hall. We were also very pleased to raise £235 for the British Legion.

Two Councillors left the Council last September, Bill Hillier and Peter Stammers after many, many years of tireless work for the parish. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their contributions and to Cllr Ray Gibbons who will be stepping down from the Council after 7<sup>th</sup> May for his invaluable contribution over the last 4 years. Cllr Neil Chamberlain will also be standing down after a short time on the Council due to work commitments. However, I'd like to thank him for working with us over the last 6 months and I hope he would be able to rejoin in the not too distant future.

Our Litter Warden Sara Boyd who has yet again done an excellent job in her fourth year. To assist her, the Parish Council installed a new litter bin beside the bus shelter earlier this year. She and her family put in an enormous amount of effort into ensuring that the village remains clean and tidy and for this the Parish Council is extremely grateful.

None of our work would be been possible without the many hours put in by our Clerk, Bev Cornish. On behalf of the members of the Parish Council I would like to extend our thanks for her work over the last year.

Lastly, I would like to express the Parish Council'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 four years.

Thank you.

Colin Draper, Chairman, Godshill Parish Council