

GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report April 2016

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

The Parish Council has commented on a number of important local authority and central government consultations, in particular Hampshire County Council's Cycling Strategy and Electoral Review, the proposed changes to mass cycling event applications when considered by the police, and the National Park's Local Plan Review. The Parish Council also commented on 22 planning and 14 tree work applications.

The Council welcomed one new councillor, Martin Thomas, who was co-opted following the Elections, and is already making a valuable contribution on the Verge project being carried out by the Western Escarpment Steering Group. We will soon be seeing the verges from Pound Bottom to Telegraph Hill restored so I'd like to express my thanks to Martin for his contribution over the last 9 months. There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council so if anyone would like to find out more about being a parish councillor and joining the Council, please contact me or the Clerk.

During the year the Parish Council decided to close the old village website and to build a new more user-friendly website at the new domain name of www.godshillnewforest.net. I hope you will have read this in the recently distributed Parish Council Newsletter and I look forward to any comments and suggestions you may have so that it can be improved over the coming months. It will be maintained by our Clerk, with the aim of ensuring it is updated regularly with the latest information and news and also with the agendas and minutes of our meetings.

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

- Firstly, the issue of an improved broadband service. Cllr Lintonbon has worked tirelessly again on this project throughout the year, liaising with BT Openreach, residents and our Hampshire County Council member, Cllr Edward Heron. However, BT are continuing to be as ever very slow in their response and action and so the Parish Council's most recent action was to write to Desmond Swayne MP to see whether he can bring any influence to moving things forward. In his absence, I should like to thank Robert for all his hard work on the parish's behalf.
- Sandy Balls and summer campsites – The Parish Council has had a number of issues with Sandy Balls and with the advertising of one of the campsites, as I'm sure you'll remember the old caravan parked outside the Fighting Cocks over the summer. At its December meeting, the Parish Council received a presentation from the Managing Director of Sandy Balls, Mr Iain Brown, on its plans for the future and so residents and councillors were able to discuss their concerns with him then. The

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Parish Council will continue to raise any matters of concern with both Mr Brown and with the Enforcement Officer in the coming year.

- Mass cycling in the Forest – This has featured rather less this year than in previous years but Cllr Cakebread has continued to monitor the events and to encourage residents to report any breaches of the Cycling Code, for which I thank her.

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 the Western Escarpment Steering Group. They also attend various meetings of relevance to Godshill parish outside the village.

Our Litter Warden Sara Boyd continues to do an excellent job and is now in the fifth year in her role. She and her family put in an enormous amount of effort into ensuring that the village remains clean and tidy and in organising the well-attended Annual Litter Pick. For this the Parish Council is extremely grateful. We are also very grateful to her for the planting and upkeep of the pinch points which also improves the look of the village for both residents and visitors.

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 my thanks to my fellow councillors for their hard work over the last year and 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 three years.

Thank you.

Colin Draper, Chairman, Godshill Parish Council