

Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report.

I have been asked by John Hope our chair for this past year to do the annual report.

There are 2 main matters on the agenda in the last year which will be a main focus for the next.

Firstly the purchase of the commons. It was agreed by the PC to purchase the commons for a nominal sum to save them as open spaces for the community. This will be a complex process not just in the purchase but also deciding how they are managed by the community.

Secondly the NDP – the NDP has made good progress over the last year and to remind you there is a presentation here on Wednesday 5- 8. This presentation gives every parish residents an opportunity to express their views on where development happens and policies that will protect the parish from inappropriate development. We have discovered over the last year what extreme pressure HC is under to provide housing and the NDP is the only opportunity this parish has to have an input on what is and isn't built here in the future. I urge you all to come along on Wednesday and fill in the questionnaire.

To follow on from that over the last year we have had a large rise in planning applications and also the scale of application in the parish and the PC have been grateful for the public views presented in order to make a balanced representation.

Andy Cross has worked very hard as our Lengthsman. We have 2 new benches purchased through grant money, old benches repaired as is the bridge down at the batch and numerous over clearance and repair jobs done. We also have a new website and hope this will be used more as an information point. I don't want to rub in the fact that after years of very poor broadband some do have superfast broadband which will make logging on a lot easier. It is still work in progress and has its moments but it is building into a very informative site.

Due to the localism act the PC is now expect to take on board a whole new set of responsibilities and liabilities which is classified as a professional body. Over the last year the parish council has become increasingly aware of the seriousness of these new regulations. This has meant the PC is going through an indepth process of change and adaption in order to comply with so many new requirements and legalities. However we are all pulling together to make this a positive process which will ultimately benefit the community we represent.

There has been good attendance at Pc meetings over the year and it is very important to the PC to see the community involved with parish matters - we are your voice.