

# Chilton Polden Parish Council

## Chairman's Report

### Annual Parish Meeting | Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

This year your Council has tried to take a positive and proactive approach to engaging with villagers, working with village groups and ensuring that Chilton Polden is relevantly represented within our district and county.

Firstly, though we should note and formally acknowledge the hard work and dedication that our previous Chairman, Antony Carr, gave to our village. Antony stepped down as Chair in March 2017 and then sadly passed away in August. As a Council we are looking to commemorate his longstanding service to our community, with a jointly funded memorial in the Playing Field, one of the village's most important assets, and one that he supported closely.

During the last year, we have held ten Council Meetings, without any other special meetings required. And I am grateful to all the Councillors, as volunteers, who give up their time to serve us all in Chilton Polden.

Key contributions and achievements this year have included:

- Working closely with the Playing Field Association to help them take advantage of RLT2 funds to buy new equipment.
- Organising and running our third annual litter pick and encouraging the on-going commitment to keep our village a clean and pleasant place to live. Our thanks to Councillor Parsons for organising this, and to all villagers who took part.
- Working with villagers and SCC to ensure the safe-keeping of one of the village's natural meadows, the field at the southern end of South Moors Lane. This field is home to many wild orchids and due to the dedication and enthusiasm of villager Sheila Chambers, and approx. 140 people who signed a petition, we managed to get the field removed from the auction of SCC assets, and hopefully are nearly at a conclusion that will see it continue to be farmed as it has been done for decades before.
- Working with the Sedgemoor Housing Development Team following their Housing Needs Assessment survey of our village, and from whom we'll hear from in their presentation to us during this Annual Parish Meeting.

As a Council we would like to congratulate the teams of villagers from St Edwards Church and the Village Hall Group who have worked together, and overcome many obstacles over many years, to formally agree a lease of this Hall. We look forward to enjoying and supporting many more community activities here for years to come.

We would also like to thank two of our villagers for stepping up and taking on volunteer community roles. Firstly, Mr William Bolt for taking on the role of Footpath Liaison Officer, and secondly, Kate Midgley, who will be taking on the role of Neighbour e-watch coordinator for the village. We are indebted to Pete Callaghan for being our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for many years, it is much appreciated.

Our District and County Councillors, Stuart Kingham and Mark Healey, have attended many of our monthly Parish Council meetings, and we thank them for their interest, involvement and, where

possible, their help. As Parish Councillors we also represent the village on local Cluster Group meetings, and input into local consultations such as the current Polden Hub Project in Woolavington.

We are also active in ensuring our village infrastructure and services are maintained as well as possible, through removing and reporting of dog fouling to Sedgemoor's Dog Warden Team; fly-tipping to the Clean Surroundings Team at SDC; road marking repainting and road drain clearance through Highways at SCC; and stile and footpath maintenance through SDC. However, we are still trying to find a solution to the flooding in Goose Lane due to the blocked culvert and continue to raise this with both SDC and SCC. We would encourage villagers to report any areas of concern to us, and also directly on the 'Report or Request' section of [sedgemoor.gov.uk](http://sedgemoor.gov.uk)

On a transport perspective, our commitment to ensuring our village is served by a regular bus service continues through Councillor Baker's route and timetabling knowledge, and we are also working with Edington Parish Council to monitor the speed of traffic in our village, to help ensure a safe environment for all road users. The safety of our residents is also helped by our liaison with the PCSO team, who are here this evening, and again, our thanks go to them for their regular visits to the village.

On a monthly basis we review and comment on any planning applications, which are now all distributed and managed online, and we support village groups where possible, including financially helping the grass cutting of our two main village hubs, the Playing Field and St Edwards churchyard.

Our thanks must go to the Parish Clerk for his sterling management of the Council's correspondence, finances, website and noticeboard, and liaison with SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) to ensure we're up to date and working effectively.

Finally, as a Council we are financially sound and our aim for 2018/19 is to be have a more outgoing approach and intention to engage with villagers, hence the leaflet drop to households for this meeting, and with village organisations. We welcome anyone to attend our meetings and for suggestions, advice and opportunities to be raised, to help us make Chilton Polden an even better place to live, work and visit.

Tim Hayne

Chairman, Chilton Polden Parish Council

09 May 2018