**Chairman’s Report - May 2016**

Thank you to all my fellow Councillors for all the support that you have given to the Parish Council during the past year. We are sorry not to have seen our District or County Councillors this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Kellaway for cutting the grass on the Village Green and to Chris Haskett for continuing to look after the grass in the Playground. The Parish Council would also like to thank all those who help to look after the Village Hall and organise events for the village to enjoy.

Public attendance at Parish Council Meetings is varied. Meetings now take place at 7.00 pm. We have had one meeting with zero attendance, usually have a small handful, and have higher attendance when there is a particular issue under discussion that concerns residents.

There have been several successful planning applications for extensions, change of use of redundant buildings and listed building improvements. One application for an extension has been turned down. The Rivers Arms Pub has continued to be subjected to applications for change of use. Significant numbers of residents have written to the Planning Committee in support of retaining its use as a public house. These applications have been turned down both at District Council level and at appeal by the Planning Inspector after a hearing. It remains for sale as a pub. The Save The Rivers Arms group has been formed to try to help anyone who is interested in The Rivers Arms as a pub. Several people have contacted the Parish Council directly, or through the website, for information about the pub as they have had difficulties getting information from the agents.

The risk of flooding has been an issue for several houses in the village. Sandbags for the use of any house in the village are stored at Meyden Revel. Geoff Hotblack has been an assiduous flood warden and has instituted a new regime to try to make sure that should there be any likelihood of flooding there are plenty of volunteers to help with sandbags and any other help that might be needed. No houses have been actually been flooded in this past year although, at times, it has been close. Weed washed down the stream has been a problem and has caused blockages. Many thanks to Geoff Hotblack.

A Cheselbourne Helpline has been set up with a team of volunteers to help with all sorts of circumstances from fetching prescriptions to giving lifts. This is working well and people are making use of it. Many thanks to Sara Timlin for organising this.

Following an incident in Streetway Lane, a group has recently been formed to look into the possibilities of a Neighbourhood Speed Watch. Many thanks to Steve Tomlinson for taking this on.

I would also like to thank Simon Roberts and Brian Bere for organising the putting up and decoration of the Christmas tree which was a great success and much commented upon even by people from outside the parish.

And finally I would like to thank Michelle who has been our clerk for the past couple of years and has made a great job of it. She is standing down at the end of this meeting and we shall miss her.