

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 13th May 2019

I feel I must start this report by saying thank you to the council members who have given such unstinting service to the community during the past year. Unfortunately we said goodbye to Geoff Hotblack and Simon Roberts but thankfully their places were filled by co-opting willing volunteers Richard Ashley and Sue Crabb, leaving us 2 short of a full council. I would also like to extend these thanks to all the parishioners who willingly give of their time to support the village in so many ways. The Flooding and Community Speed-watch teams, those who maintain the flower tubs and bus shelter, the village Helpline and Defibrillator, the Village Hall committee, the Spring litter pickers, the annual Christmas tree decorators and volunteer road gritters. It demonstrates a lively community spirit in Cheselbourne and I apologise if I have missed anyone.

The local elections see Dorset with a new unitary authority and Cheselbourne in the new Ward of Chalk Valleys, but I'm pleased to say the same councillor is representing us at local authority level, Jill Haynes, who has been a strong supporter. We also have a Parish Council with over half the members elected, quite a feat for such a small village and not only that, with co-option we have a full council of 7 members. Much bigger villages will be looking at us with some envy.

During the past year the Parish Council, despite being under-strength, continued to play an important role in a number of ways. It was instrumental in having the Slow and 30mph signs painted in the road at the entrances to the village. This, together with the community speed-watch team, helping to discourage drivers from speeding through the village. A splendid new noticeboard has been put up at the Rivers Arms thanks to John Lilley who manufactured it at material cost only. We will be discussing sharing the cost of purchasing another noticeboard to replace the one outside the School with the School and Village Hall. Our broadband champion has been successful in encouraging take up from businesses for fibre to be installed more widely by Wessex Internet. We continue to ensure that the parishes' green spaces are maintained and help St. Martins PCC with a grant for the churchyard. Unfortunately it is still necessary to remind some dog owners of the need to pick up after their pets and the playpark and some footpaths are consequently quite messy. We will be investigating the provision of new signs to post around. We have continued to play our part in the school's annual remembrance day service and wreath laying and will be ensuring that the Christmas tree remains a feature of the village in December.

Be assured that your parish Council is here for you, if you have any concerns or ideas you wish to draw to our attention then please contact the Clerk or any of the councillors directly, or bring it to one of the bi-monthly meetings which always starts with an open forum. Contact details are in the Village News and on the Parish Council website.

Colin Hampton

Chairman