

Cheselbourne Parish Council Chairman's report 2017

Thank you to all my fellow Councillors for all the support that you have given to the Parish Council during the past year. We have had a change of District Council representative, and may have further changes soon, and look forward to closer communication from them in the future. And we also hope to have improved communication from the county Council following the reorganisation.

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 such as the pub nights and the May Fayre for the village to enjoy.

Public attendance at Parish Council Meetings remains varied. We have two new Parish Councillors – James Shaw Porter and Colin Hampton, both co-opted onto the council. We also have a new clerk – Dawn Hampton. The Parish Council has bought a new laptop for the use of the clerk. Considerable work has been done to organise the accounts and finances of the Parish Council to try to ensure that we are up to date with current requirements and to be able to predict, more reliably, our financial needs as a parish.

There have been few planning applications during the past year, but we have been aware that the District Council Planning office has been taking a very long time to process planning applications. Following the turning down of the applications for change of use of the pub it has now been sold and work is being done to renovate it as a functioning pub. Members of the village have helped with working parties on initial ground clearance.

There has been no flooding in the village this last year, although Geoff Hotblack, as flood warden, has remained very much on the alert, keeping an eye on any flood alerts. Sandbags remain available for use from the store in Meyden Revel, and a portable light has been installed in the store to make them easier to find.

James Shaw Porter has made a snow plan in preparation for any winter snow hazards. He has also helped to check and organise road repairs.

Following an accident when one of the flower troughs by the entrance to the village was broken, I would like to thank Keith Skinner who repaired not only that flower trough, but also the trough at the base of the finger post in the centre of the village, outside the school. Thanks also go to Steve Tomlinson for repairs to the finger of that fingerpost, and to Guy Campbell for the ongoing work on the fingerpost outside Charlie's Patch, which will soon be looking like new!

The Cheselbourne Helpline continues to function with a team of volunteers to help with all sorts of circumstances from fetching prescriptions to giving lifts. Although this is not frequently used it is being made use of enough to know that it is of value. Many thanks to Sara Timlin for continuing to organise this. Thanks also to her for all her work in establishing the defibrillator in the village, which has been installed by the front door to the Village Hall. This is funded by Community Heartbeat and there will be a training course in the near future to train people in how to use it.

I would also like to thank the Roberts family and Brian Bere for organising the putting up and decoration of the Christmas tree outside the school which was again much admired by many people.

I would also like to thank Brian Bere for his long service as a Parish Councillor. I am sure that several other past Chairs of this Parish Council will echo my sentiments when I say how very sad we are that he is standing down at the end of this meeting. We shall miss his excellent advice and long knowledge of the village.