

Parish Council Chairman's year report.

Looking back over the year's meetings, what stands out as the most important and difficult things the Parish Council have to deal with are planning applications. These take up a great deal of our work. Our role is an advisory one to the District planners. Sometimes we agree with them, sometimes not, sometimes the applications are easy, sometimes difficult and involve extra meetings. On occasions we have disagreed with a decision and asked for it to be reconsidered by the Area East planning committee. Sometimes we lose.

We started the year with a complex and difficult one involving a landslip and have ended it with an exciting one, that of the transformation of the old Wessex Water Pump House into a home and the old reservoir into a walled garden.

This year saw the resignation of our clerk, Kevin Stow, who left us to concentrate on a new business venture. We were very pleased to recruit Anne Kaile as our new clerk in January.

Our roads and verges are mostly in good shape - the usual problems surfaced over the year - mud on the roads, potholes to be filled and the really tricky one - when to cut the verges. Our salt bins were full but with the mild winter no salt was used on the roads this year.

We do try to get things right. We had thought to have the welcome booklet information solely on line, but following representations from villagers, quickly reinstated updated paper copies. These now, as before, will be delivered to all newly arrived residents.

For the first time in around eight years we voted to increase the precept as spending exceeded income last year. This will enable us to keep supporting village things such as the Pen Paper, the Churchyard, the website and footpath clearing and stile mending.

What else to say, well I guess we will just go on as before, doing the best we can for our lovely village and the people who live here.

I think the Parish Council is a great team and I would like to thank every one of them for all their hard work, help and support throughout this year.

Jenny Steadman