

SPC Annual Parish Meeting – 20 April 2016 – Annex A

Chairs Annual Report

As a Parish Council we have had yet another very busy year. It is important to remember that being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position with sometimes full time hours. I have a strong and loyal team of Councillors who each take on a particular portfolio and give of their time generously to fulfil what often seems impossible challenges.

Councillors

My Vice Chairman is **Stewart Wooles** who this year has been tirelessly researching and educating all of us on the subject of Anaerobic Digestion and also is the portfolio holder for Highways matters. Both these tasks are onerous and I thank Stewart for all his hard work and support. Stewart also chairs the finance committee.

John Little has the task of Communications, which involves liaising with the wonderful group of volunteers who distribute the village newsletter, keeping an eye on the village website, and helping generally with our written communication with all manner of people. John is also a member of the Finance committee. Thank you John we have all missed you recently and trust you have had a wonderful holiday.

Nigel Reid is our voice of reason and helps us to understand our legal obligations and the need to remain calm in what sometimes can be difficult situations to deal with. Nigel's portfolio is the playground in Woodman Close and with Charlotte Chadwick keeps an eye on the safety of the playground, between them over the past year they have also been responsible for the ongoing refurbishment and a successful grant application from our County Councillor Phi Bailey. Thank you to you both. Nigel also looks after the interests of the PC as far as the village shop is concerned.

Richard Summerfield our longest serving member is always ready to help and particularly when it comes to the Village clean-up and negotiating a good rate for rent of the village hall for our monthly meetings. Richard is also the Chair of the Village Hall Committee. Thank you Richard for your support.

Katy Cobbold is our School representative and takes an active part as a school governor. This combined with a busy life as a mother to 3 small children is no small task and Katy we are pleased to have you as a Councillor for our village. Thank you.

Andrew Osmond (Oz) our local Farmer hold the portfolio for Security and Transport. These are both important roles and being out on the land all day and most of the night at times he certainly is the eyes and ears of the village. Behind the scenes he is also a very good communicator by email when he is unable to get to certain meetings. Thank you Oz for your much appreciated contribution.

Sue Annesley is our Northwood Park area representative and our asset register co-ordinator. Sue ensures that all the PC owns and is responsible for are annually checked and recorded. We have shielded Sue from a more onerous portfolio to date as she has personal business responsibilities to conclude. Thank you Sue for your work this past year.

We said goodbye to **Ian Hay** at the end of last year but he has committed to continue looking after the footpaths and problem trees, although he will not be attending any more meetings. Ian you will be sorely missed and we thank you for all have done and will continue to do for us. We also thank you for your time and energy in refurbishing the noticeboards.

Finally, we have recruited **Pete Chadwick** from Woodman Close, as Ian's replacement. He is unable to be here this evening but we look forward to him joining us.

Well not quite finally, what can I say about **Jill Judge** our extremely hard working Parish Clerk. Jill took over from Janice Whittle which was a difficult thing to do but what a great replacement she is proving to be. Jill's financial background enables us to be fully confident with her role as the Finance Officer and Clerk. Jill works far longer hours than her contract states and we are extremely fortunate to have her. We will shortly be sharing her with Crawley Parish Council but I am confident that she is capable of managing us both. Thank you Jill and I hope next year is less onerous on you than this past year.

Meetings

We meet monthly in the Mosaic room. One month we cover the business and regulatory matters and our City, County Councillor, Police liaison Officer and other invited people attend when they can. The following month is a Planning meeting when we deal with any planning applications, enforcement matters of indeed sometimes even manage to do some proactive planning of our own.

During the past year we invited a group of volunteers to develop a Parish Plan for the village, this will sit alongside the VDS and Conservation plan to help keep our village one of the most desirable villages to live in. You will all be aware of the questionnaires that have been sent out and if you haven't yet done so, please do complete them and send them in. Your views on the village and what you want to happen in the future really do matter.

This year to date we have dealt with 29 planning applications with our biggest one to be decided by planning committee tomorrow at the Guildhall. Please do come and support us. We have also spent money on refurbishing the Well house roof and all of the village noticeboards

As we look forward to another year I would like to thank all the groups here tonight and those that have sent apologies, and wish you continuing success in the future. Please do come along to any of our meetings and if you wish to volunteer to become a Parish Councillor please talk to me at any time.

Sue Wood

April 2016