

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS APRIL 2019

Firstly, may I say that I feel privileged to have been Chairman of this Parish Council since last April. I have been lucky to be supported by my fellow Councillors who are all equally committed to the role and have been prepared to give additional time and energy to the job when required. There have been many extra meetings, training and workshops to attend and report upon.

Many thanks also go to Jane who has ensured that the Council has stayed on the straight and narrow and ensured that our business has been carried out appropriately, not least when the Chairman is in danger of 'putting his foot in it'.

During the life of this Council since May 2016, there have been many changes of Councillors and a great deal of knowledge and expertise has been lost; the most recent was the resignation of Beryl Mansbridge having served as Councillor for 10 years. We owe Beryl a great debt of gratitude but at the same time welcome Eve Templeton to our ranks.

Throughout the year our meetings have been regularly attended by County Councillor Jim Bland and by District Councillor Kevin Holmes and I thank them both for their continued help, advice and support.

Item 6 on the Agenda is the Community Governance Review when we will have an opportunity to assess your views on how you feel the Parish should be shaped in the future but I am mindful that the current Parish Councillors are all residents of Brigsteer village and large areas of the Parish are not represented.

We also await the delivery of the LDNPA Local Plan which has been delayed until the end of the Year. Until that time the parts of the Parish now within the NP are still governed by SLDC Local Plan.

The Councillors have been very pro-active in working towards delivering the Community Led Action Plan and there have been gains in all areas, particularly in engaging with the Highways on Road Safety although money restraints have limited action to new road signage and the promise of the use of speed indicators. The PC also stood firm with the will of the Parish as whole as indicated in the CLP and residents who evidenced that the development proposed by the HCLT was inappropriate on site RN213. The Council will continue to consult with SLDC Community Housing Liaison Officer to ensure that future proposals meet with the needs and wishes of the Parish as referenced in the CLP and are truly affordable.

The Battles Over celebration of 100 year anniversary of the First World War was truly moving and remarkable and my thanks go to all those, and there were several, who helped. The sight of so many people joining the torch lit procession from the Village to Lumley Fee was a notable tribute.

Thanks go to Councillor Shelly Savasi for organising the recent Litter Pick and all the volunteers who gave up part of their Sunday to rid us of large amounts of unwanted rubbish.

Finally, the Councillors enjoyed a guided tour of Parish Land in the warm sunshine of February when we were able to inspect all the Parish Land, report on the condition and review rents where due. Thank you Councillor Davies, this was a very valuable day in ensuring that the Councillors are fully aware of the issues relating to the ownership of these Land Parcels.