

Welcome to the Annual Assembly.

As part of the Annual Assembly it falls to the Chairman to report on the activities of the Council for the year.

Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to say a few welcomes and thank yous to a number of people.

- Welcome
 - This year we have had an influx of new councillors who have volunteered to join the Council:
 - Martin Pearcy.
- Thanks
 - Firstly to Elizabeth Ely, who stood down from the council this year.
 - To the dirty dozen who took part in this year's litter pick.
 - Francis & Gillian Gamman and to Peter Ashman who have for a number of years done sterling work litter picking around the Rec Field/Play Area/Hall car parks.
 - To the members of the parish who deliver our bi-monthly newsletters.
 - To the members of the council, who give up their time to look after the Parish Council affairs on behalf of the community.
 - Lastly, but not least to Lynn Thornton, our Parish Clerk, for her tireless endeavours.

Once again this has been a busy year for the council.

- Planning
 - We have had a number of planning applications submitted throughout the year.
- Grant Allocations
 - We have awarded a number of grants this year.
 - For the village hall's fire exit modifications.
- Tennis Courts:
 - The Parish Council continued to manage and maintain the Tennis. These are available for use by anyone in the community. Access is by a combination lock, and the code can be obtained by sending a text message.
- Footpaths and Bridleways:
 - The harsh winter and spring there have been a number of trees coming down in the parish. We have escalated these events with the relevant authorities to ensure their prompt resolution.
- Allotments:
 - We have reasonable utilisation of the Allotments, but have a number of spare plots available.
- Village Maintenance:
 - We have continued the on-going maintenance of the various facilities that the Council are responsible for. Recently we have taken possession of the telephone box which will be spruced up shortly.
- Highways maintenance

- Councillor Percy has taken on responsibility for engaging with GCC Highways department. This has involved undertaking a number of tours of the village to highlight problem areas. The County still has a significant shortfall in its budget for dealing with repairs required to the roads. Should you be aware of any particular problems with the road then I would encourage you to report these to GCC Highways through their online portal. The more complaints that they receive then the more likely they are to take action.
- Play area:
 - The play area has been undergone its annual inspection by RoSPa with no significant issues being identified. We are in the process of acquiring some additional pieces of equipment which should hopefully appeal to older children.
- Other:
 - The Parish Councillors have engaged with numerous Police, and community organisations to represent the village's interests, and highlight particular concerns.
 - Councillor Cook has helped to try to escalate the issues with village Broadband, and the council is working to clarify Fastershire's plans to resolve the poor bandwidth experienced by areas of the village.
- Speeding issues:
 - We have now gathered a sufficient volume of speed data and are continuing to engage with the police to determine what can be done to address the speeding issues.

Future:

- Allotment Land:
 - The council will review the allotment plots as there is an area that has not been used for cultivation for over 10 years, and is unsuited to use as allotments. The council will seek suggestions for alternate uses that will maintain and enhance the environment and wildlife habitats of the area.

Lynn will now go through her report and the Council finances.