

BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 9 MAY 2017

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Buckland Newton Parish Annual Meeting for 2017.

We have been regularly visited by Jill Haynes our County Councillor, who keeps us up to date with county matters and we would like to congratulate her on her re-election last week. I would like to welcome our new District Councillor Brian Haynes and we look forward to seeing him at our meetings.

Alison Donnison our PCSO visits most months to pass on any police matters regarding local crime and other incidents. She also is a good link for us back to police headquarters.

The council continues to comment on any planning applications put before us and progress is finally being made on the neighbourhood plan. We have appointed a new examiner and things are moving forward. We hope a referendum on the plan can be held later this year. We continue to be deeply indebted to Councillors John Baker and Lin Townsend for their hard work and persistence in this matter.

We have seen the new houses in Bel's Court come to fruition and two appear to have been sold already.

The Parish field continues to be well maintained by the Dorset works grounds team and we are pleased that the fete was deemed a success and hope that it will continue to be held on the field. The play area is well used and we thank Caroline Durston who inspects the equipment regularly and reports defects.

The precept was increased this year in response to expected expenses regarding devolved costs from County and District Councils.

Sir William Ackroyd's legacy continues to be managed prudently.

We thank Jeremy Collins for his excellent work in keeping the community website up to date with all the news and reports from the PC.

There is good news regarding the Gaggles of Geese as it will hopefully be under new ownership soon. The family, whom we met at a recent PC meeting are very keen to return the pub to an important part of village life.

The PC has been pursuing the ownership of Hountwell Pump, an ancient water supply for Henley and we were awarded Title Absolute early this year. This was challenged by the adjacent landowner and is currently under investigation by the Land Registry.

Sarah and I are pleased and honoured to have been selected to represent the local Parish Councils at the Queens Garden party next week.

Finally, as you are aware Sarah and I intend to move away from the village in the near future and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time on the PC. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and hard work for the last two years and Sarah Mitchell for her continued excellent work as clerk.

Rodney Cuff