**Chairman’s Report Year May 2017 –May 2018**

As my 2nd Year as chairman and full year with Rachael as our Clerk, I can now report that the parish council has gained more experience and benefited from its new councillors Katherine, Andrew and now Simon. The team have now been able to implement a number of projects and improvements to the village.

The council increased the precept to £24,960 which has been spent mostly on the general upkeep of the village including grass cutting, street lighting and light maintenance replacement along with the village hall refurbishment, this gave a overspend of approximately £2,000. At the end of the year the council has £50,000 in reserve to complete projects and support the village going forward.

Traffic and particularly speeding through the village continues to be a major concern to the majority of residents. This year saw the setting up of the NMCSW which has been monitoring the MVAS and Sentinal data and produced a number of disturbing reports which highlight the extent of the speeding issue. We now have to continue with this great work and look at ways we can help to educate people and reduce speeding, with the limited funds available.

The proposed housing in the village has been a major concern to many, and the proposal for a large scale housing development met with overwhelming support to fight such developments. Although large developments are not welcomed the development of the village is something that will happen and involves us all.

This year saw the start of the process to produce a village plan that should provide a valuable document to show how people of the parish would like the village developed and what facilities and housing may be required. Although early days a strong team of volunteers have come forward to collate people’s views and work together to produce this plan and present it to the whole village.

The council has focused this year on a number of projects :-

The Village Hall has finally been refurbished, after years of leaking roofs and falling tiles we now have a new roof, new heating and insulation to keep the heat in and a new small hall giving additional space and storage. I can’t say it’s been easy but we have managed to carry out the refurbishment without the need to borrow the additional £30k we had planned. I would like to thank specifically Clr Andrew Boyt and Paul Bagni who have helped me with this project and without their help we could not have completed this project. I hope that the hall will now be able to be enjoyed by many more generations to come.

We do still need Volunteers to help with the running of the village hall and would welcome anyone who can help to please let us know.

You may also notice that the new village pond is now taking shape and should be finished within the next few weeks.

We have also started to replace the village street lighting which will be an ongoing project over the next 5 years.

I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time, money or both to help with projects within the village. It is not many villages that can boast to have so many services and groups and all are there because of the great work volunteers do to improve this village. On behalf of the whole parish council

Thank you for your hard work and commitment.