

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2017.

It has been a fairly quiet & problem-free year for the Parish Council with no real hiccups to report.

Turneys have been doing a consistently good job of keeping our banks and verges in good order and are still competitively priced. We hope that this association will continue.

The Council decided last year to take steps to minimise our Clerk's expenses. To this end, it was agreed that Councillors would take on certain responsibilities — Councillor Wise to report Highway problems such as potholes etc. to Street Doctor, Councillor Holden to assist with financial matters, Councillor Hanton to print and display notices, and Councillor Brown to liaise with County on tree & dog fouling related matters. All this was designed to cut down on the clerk's hours & expenses for travelling time.

Councillor Brown has been keeping abreast of tree management and, although contractors have not always completed everything as expected, on the whole the trees are in pretty good order.

We as a Parish Council are now undertaking some work on a tree on the Village Green, which has some dangerous overhanging branches.

We were very disappointed that we were unsuccessful last year in securing a grant from the Community Facilities Fund for the installation of a children's playground. We are hopeful that this fund will come on line again this year. Having been advised by a fund manager at ENC how best to apply for this we are hopeful of success this time round. We are happy that Tim Herin has agreed to help us with this application as he has a great deal of experience in this field, and we are very grateful to him for his help.

With a view to raising some funds for the playground, we are planning to organise a family fun run and barbeque on the Recreation Field on Sunday 03 September. We are hoping that some young mums & dads will assist with organising this and there is an appeal for volunteers in the current newsletter.

Unfortunately the B.R.B. hit a brick wall late last year but luckily we now have 3 new enthusiastic volunteers to join the team — Sarah & Mike Uttley and Joe Croser. The plan has been rejuvenated and we have consulted with Claphorn to get some pointers as they are further down

The time with their plan and, by all accounts they are doing a good job!

In April Councillor Holder organised the Village Litter Pick and we are very grateful to Phil and all who came along to help. A great deal of rubbish was collected - witness the huge pile left on the Village Green for collection. It would be most helpful if people could pick up litter when they see it & place it in one of the many waste bins in the village.

Last year Councillor Brown & I met with the Council dog warden & pointed out various areas of concern re: dog-fouling. We also requested additional litter bins for disposal of dog droppings. As yet we have seen no action on these issues but Councillor Brown has contacted the warden to remind.

~~A few~~

In October last year, I applied on behalf of the P.C. to take part in Waitore Green Token scheme, to raise money for the installation of the defib. in the phonebox. Our project was advertised for the month of March & we were delighted to receive a

Cheque for £550. We hope that with the co-operation of the Heart Beat Trust the defibs will be installed soon.

A few days ago we received an invitation from C.4 to take part in the Village of the Year 2017 competition - the prize for winning being £10,000. I passed this invitation to the Community Group via Tim Herrick who has applied to participate. If Barnwell is accepted I understand that filming will take place this summer - so watch this space!

That concludes my report & thank you to all the Councillors for their commitment & hard work as always

H. Hark,