

Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN REPORT 2017-2018

1. Since the last AGM we have had the most meetings in the last 20 years. These were on the 3rd October, 31st October, 29th November, 13th December, 10th January, 6th February and 6th June.
2. Village finances remain in good shape. Many thanks to Mandy McPherson for her careful fiscal guidance and for John Castles great help in ensuring a smooth handover. We have, as you will see, a healthy balance in the accounts. We will need to keep a watchful eye to ensure we do not breach any of the regulations. Mandy will also carry out a detailed review of all our procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose.
3. The Village website continues in safe hands. Alex Ward looks after it. We should make more use of it rather than just a depository for Parish council minutes. Any ideas welcome.
4. For another year I am pleased to report the village Defib has not been used.
5. Planning
This has been a very busy year on the planning front.
The applications concerned, 1 New Cottages x2, The Lodge at Barton House (subsequently withdrawn), Wood keepers – change of use to a dwelling, Rainbow farm, for a new 2 storey extension and a new pool house, Garage at Henmarsh House, variation to the plans, Stanbrook house, New stable block and tractor store.
6. Constitutional Changes. In order to streamline procedures and reduce the number of XO meetings it has been agreed that the PC delegates its powers of comment to the Clerk subject to various conditions being met. We will monitor how this works.
7. Village Clean up. This was well organised by Chris Seymour-Smith again this year. There was an excellent turnout. His pithy emails seem to do the trick. Eddie Hicks made all the rubbish disappear and Maggie and John provided sustenance. We will miss them both when they have moved out Perhaps the new occupants can be persuaded to carry on the tradition.
8. Parish Plan. Glaciers have moved faster but I hope the autumn will bring some developments.
9. Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their time and support this year especially with the large number of meetings. I appreciate it a great deal especially when everyone is so busy. I cannot conclude without giving a special vote of thanks to our retiring Parish Clerk, Penny Mead. She has been fantastic in keeping us all on track and I hope we can find a worthy successor. I would like to present you with a bouquet as a token of my appreciation for all the help you have given me over the years. I am delighted to confirm that Benedicte Wield as agreed to take over as our Auditor following John Shipton's retirement last year.

James Coker
Chairman.
May 2018.

