

## **Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 3rd May 2017**

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2017 Annual Parish meeting and thank you for coming.

Firstly, I would to thank all the councillors for all their support during the year and to say how sorry we are to lose Neil Tibble who is standing down after this meeting. I know how difficult it is to juggle work and home especially when unforeseen problems arise. Thank you Neil for all the time you have given to the council especially sorting out the problems with the basket ball equipment.

I would also like to thank Marian for all her dedication and hard work as clerk, I know sometimes this is almost a thankless task.

### **PRECEPT**

We have set our parish precept for the forth coming year at £7500. This is quite an increase from previous years, but the council felt that it was very necessary as we needed to pay Marian for all the hours she was putting in, which far exceeded the hours she was getting paid for. The scale of this increase should not have to be repeated.

### **Projects**

The basket ball net and play surface seem to have survived the last nine months. Certainly the higher position of the basket has solved the problem of people hanging on it and I would like to thank Steve and Neil for sorting this out.

### **Grass Cutting**

After many years of trying, we seem to have found, in Suffolk Norse, a good grass and hedge cutting company. They come on a very regular basis and the village open areas are looking much more cared for.

### **Highways**

As far as Highways are concerned I can only repeat what I said in previous reports. The verges have disintegrated even further and are proving to be a hazard especially to car tyres and the increasing numbers of large oversized tractors are not helping. We will continue to complain to the Highways department and our local country councillor once the election is over.

The application to open the unregistered footpath between Butts Road and the Church has been submitted to the relevant department and we are waiting for it to reach the top of their reviewing list.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Council has sent in the application to prepare a neighbourhood plan and we have submitted the neighbourhood development plan area to Suffolk Coastal. The plan of the area, which basically is the whole of Playford Parish was published in the Fynn Lark News. However, Playford Parish Council cannot do this alone, we desperately need volunteers to form a Neighbourhood Plan committee.

During 2016 the Council managed to stop Kesgrave Town Council annexing part of Playford parish into their neighbourhood plan area application.

## **Speedwatch**

Playford Parish Council decided not to join forces with Rushmere Parish Council and latterly Kesgrave Town Council in their project to identify speeding drivers. Originally the project was for Playford and Rushmere to share a radar gun but after Rushmere unilaterally decided to invite Kesgrave to join the project it became obvious that Playford would not have a proportional share in the number of speedwatch sessions.

We are now looking to join with the other villages from the former 12PT group to share a VAS - a vehicle activated sign. It is early days in this project, but we could certainly place a VAS on the approaches to the village and if Robert agrees we could use the £700 allocated to the speedwatch project for installing the supports for the equipment.

## **Future Projects.**

As well as the VAS we are looking to change the Dog Bin at the entrance to the village hall for a larger one and to install a new one at the top of Hill Farm Road.

That concludes my report.

Thank you