

# COLLINGHAM *Parish Council*

## CHAIR'S REPORT FOR PARISH MEETING OF 13 April 2017

In comparison to previous years this has been relatively a quiet year for the parish council.

Besides the usual things that the council has to deal with such as, waste bins, play park inspections, footpaths, grant applications, managing finance and of course planning. Which the recent plans on the paddocks at Oaklands and saw what I think was the largest attendance by the public at a parish council meeting. There is of course the formal and informal links that the parish council maintains with other organisations within the village too as well as carrying out our other statutory requirements of being a parish council.

We started the year by determining that the village needed some new notice boards including a new location on Station road. These are important areas for not only disseminating parish council information but is utilised by many in the village.

Also as a result of the uptake of the park the council determined that more frequent bin collections were required from the park. This tells me that the park is well used and indeed on my walks passed seems always busy which is a great testament to this as a community facility.

During this time, the post office sent out a consultation with the proposal to move from the current location. Whilst the council did respond saying that we were supportive of the retention of a post office in the village we expressed concerns over the manner it came about and parking pressures around the proposed new location. Sadly, maintaining it in its current location was not an option so rather than lose a post office completely the council responded accordingly.

Tender process for a maintenance program for parish owned buildings was kicked off. As the custodian of several buildings at the heart of the community it is important that these are maintained and kept in good condition.

The previous items focused a bit on necessary expenditure for maintenance so it is nice to report that we supported the tennis club after receiving a grant application from them in improving their facilities.

We also assisted the baby and toddler group with their applications for funding from other organisations in obtaining a piece of play equipment for the very young children to go on the park.

In November, we welcomed our new Vicar Mandy to the area.

A series of consultations commenced on updating the skate park with Parish council representation on the consultation group.

Sadly during this time, it became clear that the white poplar that stood at the village centre and held the Christmas lights had honey fungus and the tree would require felling for safety reasons. A replacement will be looked at as part of future council meetings.

In February, we had to bid a sad fair well to Neil and Tracey at the post office after 15 years in place. The post office moved to Gascoyne's further down high street. It was in February

as well when after many years' service on the Parish Council, Councillor Parkin handed in her resignation. I would like to thank Councillor Parkin for all of her efforts over the years.

The parish Council were pleased to give a grant of £1000 to the scouts as a contribution towards their target in order to go to Switzerland next year. As part of this request the council requested some jobs to be done by the scouts around the village including litter picks and assisting with Best Kept Village.

Finally we welcome our new Councillor Jean Davies.

I would like to close by thanking everyone involved with community activities that makes Collingham such a lovely place to be a resident, fellow Councillors, district and county Councillors, volunteers, nothing could be achieved without our residents who freely volunteer their own time. I extend particular thanks to our clerk Caron Ballantyne who keeps the council on track and ensures that all the statutory requirements are covered and that we are well governed. My thanks to you all is both personal and on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Tim Mussont*

13 April, 2017.