

## **Chair's Report 10 April 2017 By Councillor Ros Slowley**

### **Thank you**

- To all councillors for their hard work over the year
- To those not standing again - all the best to
- To our clerk, Sue, for all her hard work
- Our Community Police Support Officers and PC Pete Dale, who has changed area
- Our local maintenance contractor, Dave Peate, who keeps the parish tidy

### **Welcome**

- To our PC Mark Moth, our new police officer

### **Review of year 2016/17**

- Kept the street lights going, changing to LED street lights – 3 so far
- Scrutinised numerous planning applications but not managed to secure any development that gives us CIL money
- Written regularly to our MP about Shottaton Crossroads/A5 – had visits from 2 different Transport Minister and hopeful for some changes in 25 years time
- Worked to make our roads safer:
  - Group set up, public meeting held with Ben H-B, PACE stickers for cars bought, regular meetings, formulating a plan
  - Multi-agency meeting set up to look at issues
  - Footpath between Platt Bridge and Baschurch cut back and cleared for safe use
- Continued with the successful hanging flower basket project - almost self-financing, thanks to donations, baskets made up by the Derwen College Nursery
- Put up the annual Christmas tree
- Supported the AED (defibrillator) based at the school with training/refresher for volunteers
- Planted another oak sapling in Olden Lane - to replace the one that died after the original oak came down in storm damage
- Introduced the Mailchimp newsletter, circulated by email to keep people informed
- Parish represented at the Oswestry Area Town and Parish Council meetings

- Doctors Meadow field:
  - Basketball court installed - with help from funding from Severn Trent; ST&R Housing and Shropshire Council.
  - Spinney - replacement saplings obtained, but felling again delayed, hopefully to the Autumn
  - Car park - logs laid to protect the grass, to prevent SC locking the gates
- Birch Grove play area – agreed to improvements and re-furbishing, grant obtained from ST&R housing community chest
- Raised the precept – in anticipation of the increased costs 2017/18 – as we:
  - Supported in principle the option to take over the 5 recreational areas – more information needed before final decision can be made
  - Agreed to a sum of money £3,000 p.a. to support maintenance of the Cliffe

**I joined the Parish Council in 1991, an uncontested election. In my time only one election has been contested.**

#### **My main achievements over the last 26 years**

- Completed the application form to secure substantial funding to add to the S106 monies, held consultation sessions, worked with Shropshire Council Officers against our own elected SC councillor, to put fantastic, now well used, play equipment on Doctors Meadow field, and Dunning Close play area.
- Represented the PC at numerous planning committee meetings to try to prevent unsuitable plots from being developed and put our viewpoint forward.
- Contributed to SC Consultations on various issues, mostly planning policy related.
- Was part of the Parish Plan Steering Committee from the beginning, attended numerous meetings, worked on the questionnaire, helped to write and design the Parish Plan, get it published and distributed, and the updates to the plan.
- Read, re-read and read again, at least 3 planning applications for housing on the old Dairy Site, and all the associated paperwork, attended public meetings, discussed again and again the plans, and lobbied hard for good deals at the planning committee meetings – only to find nothing has yet been built and we're back to awaiting the next proposal.
- Helped to secure a larger amount of land than originally offered for recreational land on the Doctors Meadow field, as part of the S106 deal when Penton's

bought the Dairy Site for development, by pacing out the area with Margaret Lycett, and realising we were going to be leased a smaller sized field than promised.

- Lobbied hard to get Oswestry Borough Council to own the freehold of the field and not lease it.
- And more.....

#### **Wish list for the future Parish Council**

- Change all street lights the PC is responsible for to LED
- Implement some of Ben H-B's road safety ideas to change the psychology of drivers to make the village a better place to walk and cycle
- Have concrete and costed plans in place ready for a new Village Hall, when land and money available
- Have the courage to negotiate with Pentons for the freehold of Doctors Meadow field so the field is safe in community hands
- Find enough willing people to co-opt on the council!