

SICKLINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016

Over the course of this year we have seen the retirement of both Richard Moon as a Councillor and Stephen Blaney as both Chairman and Parish Councillor. Thanks are due again to both of them for the hard work they both put in.

Richard Moon was replaced by Roy Gibbs in May 2016 and Stephen Blaney replaced by Anita Massarella in September 2016, both were co-opted on to the Council. The role of Chairman fell to me. Both Roy and Anita have been welcome additions to the Parish Council, bringing additional knowledge and expertise.

The Council's Activities through the Year

The Council has dealt with a large number of planning applications. Following the comments made by Stephen Blaney in his last Chairman's Report all planning applications are now dealt with at a full Parish Council meeting. These are of course open to both applicants and objectors and other interested parties to attend.

Over the course of the last year there have been nine separate meetings of the Parish Council.

Roads – With the assistance of our County Councillor, Cliff Trotter, patching and repairs have taken place to the roads in the village and it is expected that a major programme of repairs is to commence shortly.

Repairs have been carried out to fencing at the top of the village following damage caused by a car coming off the road in icy conditions.

The two ponds in the village have been kept in good condition and the Council has recently obtained the result of a risk assessment survey carried out by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. This report is to be considered at the next Council meeting but does recommend that fencing is installed in the gap in the fencing to the upper pond fronting on to Main Street is fenced in.

Council has continued to clean rubbish from the verges of the roads, empty the dog waste bins and the waste bin in the layby at the top of the village.

The temporary road speed signs continue in operation and appear to have a positive effect in reducing the speed of traffic through the village. There are

proposals for a Community Speed Watch Scheme which will be discussed with a view to implementing the Scheme in Sicklinghall.

During the course of the year the Parish Council have approved the following grants from the Community Fund:

£2,250 to Sicklinghall CP School for replenishment and enhancement of the School's library;

£2,000 to Sicklinghall Cricket Club for temporary accommodation following the unfortunate fire in October 2016.

Cemetery – The Council have, at last, received a ground report on the land comprised in the proposed extension. Subject to a detailed analysis of this further progress should be made within the coming year. Over the course of the last year there have been problems caused by visitors to the cemetery obstructing roads and tracks and damaging residents' cars. A decision was taken during the year to restrict the purchase of burial plots to residents of the Parish from April 2017. See the Minutes of the meeting on 7 December 2016.

Finances – The Council intends to attempt to maintain a reserve to cover the anticipated costs of the proposed cemetery extension.

Finally this has been a first full year of the new Clerk, Julie Clegg, who has now found her feet and is more familiar with the multitude of rules and regulations which she has to deal with and on which she has to advise the Council. Thanks to her and my fellow Councillors for the hard work they have put in over the year.