

GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report April 2017

Thank you for coming this evening. It has been a fairly busy 12 months again with various issues being discussed and resolved at our monthly meetings.

Your Parish Council has commented on 11 planning applications and 12 tree works applications over the last year as well as important local authority and central government consultations, in particular for Waste & Recycling Centre services, planning changes, the Boundary Commission's Electoral Review, local government devolution and the effectiveness of local policing. I would particularly like to thank Ann Cakebread and Richard Fell for their thorough consideration of several complex applications, their very comprehensive reports and their representation of the Parish Council's views at the National Park's Development Control Committee.

The Council welcomed one new councillor, Bob Pomphrey, who has already made a valuable contribution through his attendance with Ann Cakebread at the North West Quadrant meetings. However, Martin Thomas, who was co-opted after the 2015 elections and who made his own valuable contribution as the Council's representative on the Verge and Western Escarpment Steering Group sadly had to resign due to ill health. I'd like to thank Martin very much for his contribution to the Parish Council and I hope he will be able to re-join us sometime in the future. The Parish Council therefore has a vacancy so if anyone would like more information about becoming a councillor, please do get in touch with me or the Clerk.

There are a number of issues on which the Parish Council continues to work:

- The long-awaited improvement to the broadband service for the remaining parts of the village which didn't benefit from the Sandy Balls upgrade and partial upgrade of the box beside the Village Hall. Cllr Lintonbon has continued his work on this project throughout the year, liaising residents and with both our Hampshire County Council member, Cllr Edward Heron and our MP, Sir Desmond Swayne. However, although not much progress has been made, Robert will continue to pursue every avenue and I would like on behalf of the Council to thank him for his efforts.
- Sandy Balls – The ownership of Sandy Balls changed at the beginning of 2017 and I have already met with a representative of the new owners to try to build a good relationship and to press home to them the parish's expectations of a site located in a conservation area within a national park as well as the need to consider existing residents who have in the past been frequently affected by the site's activities. At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the new owners be invited to attend the June meeting of the Council so that they can inform the parish of their plans and can understand residents' concerns. I hope you will attend to highlight any issues you may have with the site.

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- Speeding – Following concerns raised by residents, the Parish Council has requested through the New Forest District Council the installation of a Speed Limit Repeater Sign to be installed temporarily on the Southampton Road. I hope it will be in place shortly after a brief delay in having to erect separate poles for it as none of the existing telegraph poles were suitable. If the SLR proves effective, the Parish Council may consider purchasing its own device to ensure that vehicles adhere to the speed limits in the village.

In addition to attending regular meetings of the Parish Council, your councillors attend the meetings of several other organisations such as the Village Hall Committee, the New Forest Consultative Panel and the Western Escarpment Steering Group. They also attend various meetings of relevance to Godshill parish outside the village such as the New Forest Association of Local Councils.

Our Litter Warden Sara Boyd has continued her tireless work to keep the village clear of litter and she has this year been partially assisted by an additional two litter bins which the Parish Council installed along the Southampton Road. They have so far had a good effect in reducing the litter but they still require emptying. With the Annual Litter Pick, she and her family put in a tremendous amount of effort into ensuring that the village remains clean and tidy and for this we are all extremely grateful. We are also very appreciative of the work she does to keep the pinch points planted up and looking bright and cheerful (when they are not damaged!) for both residents and visitors.

None of our work would be been possible without the hours put in by our Clerk, Bev Cornish. On behalf of the members of the Parish Council I would like to thank her for her work over the last year.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all my fellow councillors for their hard work over the last year and the Parish Council's thanks to our County Councillor, Edward Heron and our District Councillor, Bill Dow, for all their efforts on our behalf. We look forward to working with them and for you over the next two years.

Thank you.

Colin Draper, Chairman, Godshill Parish Council