

# GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Report April 2019, read out by Cllr Lintonbon

Thank you for coming this evening. Unfortunately, Cllr Fell is away on work business in Scotland and unable to give this speech, so I am giving it on his behalf.

It has been a fairly busy 12 months with a number of new, as well as familiar, issues being debated at the Council's monthly meetings. Your Parish Council has commented on 13 planning applications and 24 tree works applications as well as important local authority consultations. In particular, the New Forest District Council's Local Plan 2016-2036 and the proposed 1,000 houses at Alderholt contained in East Dorset District Council's Local Plan without significant supporting infrastructure. I'd like to thank Ann Cakebread, in her absence, yet again for her thorough research and drafting of responses for the Parish Council to consider and approve.

The Council welcomed one new councillor, Lucinda Phillips, who brought with her, her expertise of being a commoner to the Council. I'm glad to say that she, with Cllrs Cakebread, O'Brien, Pomphrey, Williams and I, Richard, all put ourselves forward to stand in the next term and were re-elected unopposed last week.

One Councillor who is retiring from the Council is Cllr Robert Lintonbon, to whom I'd like to pay tribute and express the Council's deep gratitude for his commitment to the work of the Council over the last 8 years. Particularly his persistent work in trying to get superfast broadband for the area of the parish which is still connected by copper wire.

He has attended workshops, met with Hampshire County Council officers and councillors, endlessly emailed his OpenReach contacts who rarely respond, arranged for them to attend Parish Council meetings, responded to residents, talked to other parish representatives about their projects and investigated private funding as well as submitted bids for funding, one of which is currently being considered in May. Regrettably, none of these efforts has yielded any results so far but thank you very much Robert for all your hard work and we wish you a very happy retirement.

There are two key issues on which the Parish Council continues to work:

- Speeding - The results of a traffic and speeding survey carried out last spring confirmed to the Parish Council that its own speed indicator devices were needed. Two more locations for the devices have been identified (as they can't remain permanently in the same place) which means they should be in place by the summer once permissions from the County Council are received. The Parish Council is also exploring the installation of 'gateway' signs at either end of the Southampton Road, to emphasise the centre of the village and hopefully encourage drivers to reduce their speed.
- Pinch Points: The Council is in discussions with Hampshire Highways to try a marginal gains approach to traffic calming. It is pushing to get the missing

signs erected on the western pinch point and to have white lines drawn around the pinch points to direct the traffic and reduce both speeds and risk of collision/damage to the pinch points themselves.

- Sandy Balls – The Council considered a major planning application for the replacement of the touring area last summer and, through Cllr Pomphrey, it continues to liaise with Clare Watkins, the General Manager, on matters of interest and concern to residents.

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.

With regard to this Village Hall, the hardworking Committee ensures that it goes from strength to strength with further grant funding received as well as the Parish Council's support through payment of the annual insurance premium. Various events have raised considerable sums and the next project, albeit long term, is to upgrade the toilet facilities. Furthermore, the Parish Council approved the purchase of a community access defibrillator and this will be installed on the front wall of the hall at the end of April. I would like to thank Cllr Williams for all her work with the Hall Committee as well as encourage everyone to continue to support it as much as they can.

On footpaths, I have continued to work with Cllr Pomphrey on inspecting and improving them and thank him for his efforts in reporting issues and carrying out repairs, as well as identifying work needing to be done by the Parish Lengthsman who visits every 2 months.

Our Litter Warden Sara Boyd has continued her tireless work to keep the village clear of litter. She also looks after the pinch points, which have looked particularly bright and cheerful this spring, for the benefit of residents and visitors. Thank you, Sara, for all your hard work which is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the members of the Parish Council, I would like to thank our Clerk, Bev Cornish, for all her work over the last year. With the support of the Council, she has embarked on a 2 year community governance course with De Montfort University which will enhance her knowledge and in turn yield benefits in the way in which your Council is run.

Lastly, my thanks to all councillors for their hard work during the last year and for this term of the Council. I would also like to express everyone'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 4 years. Thank you.

Cllr Lintonbon said that on behalf of Godshill Parish Council, he would like to thank Cllr Richard Fell for his work as Chairman over the last year and, in particular, in taking the lead on the various traffic speed reduction initiatives and policing issues.