

Chairmans Report 2017 -18

When I was looking back over previous Chairmans reports trying to work out what I was going to put in this one, I realised I have just been voted in for my sixth year as Chairman. I am either getting something right or no one else wants the job!

What does your Parish Council do?

There are seven seats on the council although we only have six councillors at the present time. We attend meetings of the council approximately every six weeks.

Each year we set the precept. This is the amount we get from AVDC to cover our costs for the year.

What do we spend it on?

Some of the things we use it for are:

Mowing the village green, churchyard and burial ground

Maintenance of the footway lighting and paying for the electricity to run them

Repair and maintenance of the play equipment

Dog bin emptying

Insurances to cover things like the play equipment, noticeboards and seats

What else do we do?

We attend meetings with both the district and county councils. We have regular meetings with the Venture Park management and other parties where necessary. We attend training sessions and seminars

to help us understand the job better and to keep up to date with changes in legislation.

We comment on planning applications which will affect the village.

We attend local events like the Fun day to give you an opportunity to talk to us.

We run two clean up days each year.

Last Christmas we persuaded Councillor Irwin to bring the Christmas float to Westcott and collected over £200 to put towards an event for our Senior members this Christmas.

The problem though is that there is much more we would like to do. But there are only six of us. We can't do all these things on our own.

We have a vacancy for a Councillor, we need volunteers to be trained to use the speed camera, we need people to come along to our clean ups. Other than Parish Councillors there were only two members of the public at our last clean up. Thanks very much to them though, your support is appreciated.

I need to say thank you to my fellow councillors for the work they put in.

I need to say a very big thank you to our clerk Alan Lambourne who makes sure we stay on the straight and narrow. Last but definitely not least a big thank you to Alan's wife Hilary for the lovely cakes.