

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

The older one gets, the quicker time flies. That has certainly been the case this last year, it doesn't seem like 12 months ago that I was reading out the chairman's annual report for 2015. Unfortunately, our Parish Meeting last year was marred with disappointment. This hall had been double booked and we had to move into the Church at short notice. and as a result the public turnout was very disappointing.

However, it is good to see a good number of you here tonight?

In May last year I was again elected as Chairman, and as usual, the full council have met each month with the exception of August. We have two sub committees with their own chairmen dealing with Planning (Chairman: Cllr Pat Cowan) and Environmental matters. (Chairman: Cllr. Jeremy Sacha). You will hear their reports later.

I suppose, our main item of the year was the public meeting held in the Church last September. I felt that it was time to inform residents of Bodicote of what CDC has planned for our village following the approval of the long awaited Local Plan for Cherwell. The parish council agreed with me and the meeting was set up. Those of you who attended will be well aware of the anger and shock that the large crowd showed. From that meeting a "Bodicote at Risk" fighting group was set up, who have been working hard to understand what is planned for our village, and what can be done to control further development. The Parish Council fully support this group but they, the group, would welcome more support from residents. We shall hear more about that later.

Most of you will know that within the Local Plan was yet another nail in the village's coffin, with an area of land opposite Bishop Loveday School being allocated for development and although it is in the Bodicote Parish it will become, in time, part of Banbury's extension. The Parish Council have strongly objected against this but like most local people, who know what problems will arise, we have little hope of stopping this disaster. A number of us recently met with Victoria Prentis MP to point out our concerns, but although she has sympathy for our plight it appears that she cannot get involved in planning matters. Without sounding too much of a defeatist I believe that the future for Bodicote, as a village, is very bleak, and there seems very little can be done to stop it's destruction.

On a more lighter note, we have now set up a small steering group to go forward with Weeping Cross Monument that we plan to be in situ by 2018 in time to commemorate the end of World War 1. A number of ideas are being floated, one being a time capsule hidden in the stonework containing a scroll where residents can subscribe to have their name placed on it. This will obviously be discussed by that steering group.

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This year we also experimented further with the Christmas Lights by having a Christmas Tree placed outside the Shop in the village to replace the deceased rowan tree that had been removed. A number of positive comments were made about the idea and no doubt it will go ahead again. We were grateful to the Bodfest Committee who supplied the lights for the tree on the corner of Broad Gap and High Street.

I would like to finish by thanking all of the Parish, District and County Councillors for their support and time in this past year. And a very special thanks to the Clerk Val for her time and expertise throughout the year. She is extremely good at putting reports and comments together on behalf of our village, and it is much appreciated. Long serving and ex chairman Cllr Ray Phipps has decided to retire from the Council this time. Ray with his experience and local knowledge will be sadly missed on the council. We wish him all the best for the future. Cllr. Keith Humphries has also found it necessary to stand down because of illness in the family, and we again wish him and his wife well in the future.

I would also like to thank John Washburn and his team for the excellent newsletter that is produced throughout the year in which Parish Council news can be brought to residents attention.

It would be wrong for me not to thank my wife Jenny, who for the past 15 years has been the village correspondent for the Banbury Guardian. Many people have over the years congratulated her reports. and have look forward to reading them. The Parish Council is also grateful for her input on council's behalf. Jenny stood down from this position at the end of March, at the time of writing this I am led to understand that another resident has shown an interest in taking on this responsibility, which is good news.

On a more personal note, I will also be standing down as Chairman and Parish Councillor this year. My wife and I having decided the need to off load some of our commitments and free us up to move in other directions. I have enjoyed my 16yrs with the Parish Council, and in my 7 years as Chairman I have worked hard for the good of the village and have always endeavoured to give 100% of my time and effort in all I have been involved in, and I shall, no doubt miss it.....
(for a while anyway). Thank you.

Cllr. Ron Glynn
Chairman

April 2016