

## **Stock Parish Council Chairman's Report 2016-2017**

### **Council Membership**

The past year has seen a full programme of meetings, with a council meeting each month supplemented by a separate meeting to focus on planning applications. There are currently nine Parish Councillors Nick Fairman (Chairman), John Millernas (vice Chairman), Paul Fenwick, Adrian Rilstone, Sally Johnson, Ian Raindle, Sophie Clark, Kerry Cansdale and Steve Jones.

This year Cllr Simon Mills resigned and I would like to thank Simon for his time on the Council. Sadly Kerry Cansdale has also decided to stand down as a Councillor due to work commitments. Kerry has been an excellent Councillor and has contributed greatly to our meetings. In particular she has been leading our efforts to try and reduce crime in the village through the Neighbourhood watch group. Kerry has kindly agreed to continue her work with the group.

The commitment and diligence of all councillors is something for which parishioners can be proud. We work on a voluntary basis and devote a considerable amount of our spare time dealing with village matters.

This year also saw the resignation of our clerk for the past fifteen years, Lorraine Green. However we now have a new clerk Jennie Baroi. Jennie has a new office located in the village and is learning to love Stock as much as we do. She has put together a new village website which she will be introducing later this evening.

### **The Village Environment**

The Parish Council spends a considerable amount of time dealing with the upkeep of the village and maintaining and improving its appearance continues to be an important priority. Works undertaken by the Parish Council include maintenance of a number of greenswards, the car park at All Saints Church, the playground area at the Common as well as street furniture and bins.

Recently the Parish Council has agreed to contribute towards improvement works around the entrance to Stock Primary School. These works are to be funded from the community infrastructure levy

Members of the Parish Council together with friends and family undertook a litter pick in April and collected a significant amount of rubbish. Thanks to all those who helped.

### **Roads and Traffic**

The “Community Speedwatch” team run by Keith Johnson has been working hard to try and reduce the number of speeding vehicles passing through the village. Unfortunately the number volunteers for this important work has fallen and it will stop unless more step forward . If anyone is able to devote an hour or so a week to this extremely worthwhile activity please contact keith Johnson via the clerk.

The Parish Council continues to lobby Essex County Council Highways Panel regarding lowering speed limits on the roads around the village.

### **Planning Matters**

The Parish Council continues to monitor and make comments on planning applications. The number of applications before the Parish Council was again in excess of 100 during the past year.

Each application is carefully scrutinised by the Parish Council and consultation responses sent to Chelmsford City Council.

We have also reported a number suspected unauthorised development to Chelmsford City Council’s enforcement officers.

## **Police Matters and crime**

In November the Parish Council held a meeting on crime in response to an increasing amount of burglary within the village. The meeting was attended by Roger Hirst (Essex Police and Crime Commissioner), Tricia Stark (Essex Police Crime Prevention advisor) and Steve Leverett (Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch). Parishoners strongly expressed their concerns to the Roger Hirst regarding this problem.

Following the meeting Councillors successfully managed to restart the Neighbourhood watch scheme. Later this evening we will be providing more details on how you can become involved in Stock's Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

We also interviewed and trialled a mobile security company which we decided not to progress.

## **Other Matters**

We will be hosting a Play in the Park event on the 4<sup>th</sup> August between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Play in the park is a free two hour multi-activity session for children aged 6-11 and includes sports, arts, crafts, games and free-play.

Many thanks to the Parish Councillors for their commitment throughout the year. Thanks to the Clerk who continues to provide support and information that is much appreciated. Equally Councillor Ian Grundy continues to work hard on behalf of the Parish in his duties and his support to the Parish Council is valued.

Nick Fairman  
Chairman, Stock Parish Council  
May 2017