

## Chairman's report 2018

Welcome to the Annual Parish meeting. In my ninth year as Chair I would want to report the following:

As always this has been a busy year for the Council despite us meeting less frequently (moving to 6 weekly meetings from our previous monthly sessions) setting up sub groups to both increase our efficiency and reduce time spent by our Clerk on Council Business.

We have this year

- Adopted the Cllrs guide and Code of Conduct
- set up sub groups making Cllrs responsible for specific areas of work, this included Finance, Planning and Highways, the Recreation Ground, the Hub, and a VH entertainments group
- We were also carrying vacancies and had Cllrs off with long term illness further reducing the numbers of available Cllrs all of whom are volunteers and most who are also in part or full time employment.

I can report on the following:

- ❖ All Cllrs have been issued with and agreed to work to the new Cllrs guide and have divided jobs electing themselves into specific sub groups
- ❖ We have filled our vacancies having successfully recruited Geoff Heath who is now a full member of the Council and Bernadette Davey who is still a co-opted member (her choice) until she completes educational commitments.
- ❖ Some Sub groups have been established and have met several times ( Finance, Hub and Library, Entertainment,
- ❖ Others are part established, dealing more specifically with issues arising ie the Recreation Group whose time has been spent dealing with parking issues for TopScore trying to secure funding for off road parking to prevent further issues for residents locally
- ❖ Planning and Highways – this group has been slow in starting but has been concentrating more recently on campaigning and raising awareness against the huge new development proposals locally. Baddesley have as a Council offered our support to both Dordon and Polesworth Councils contesting and questioning proposed developments outlined in the Local Plan and Cllr Driver has now set up a local action group 'Beat the Build' which is gaining support locally, Grendon PC now wanting to join.
- ❖ The Council has previously agreed to award a small uplift on the precept to cover increases in utilities for the VH and increases in staff salaries. This was however made impossible when the NWBC announced in January that Members had voted to withdraw the rate support grant for Parish and Town Councils leaving all Parish and Town Councils with a significant gap in funding. For this Council that was just under £5000 resulting in local people having to pick up this deficit through precept - effectively charging the community twice.
- ❖ we have as a result of the increase looked at reducing spend across the Councils main assets, the Recreation Ground is effectively cost neutral bringing in rents of £2400 plus our tenant is responsible for grass cutting saving us a further cost. (£2500).
- ❖ The Village Hall makes a steady income from letting but also delivers services for not only our community but also our neighbours, i.e. the lunch club, library, parent and toddler group, which if cut would leave a number of residents without a service. Our main spend at the VH is wages for staff to deliver services, our cleaner, caretaker and hub and library worker, and utilities and our public liability and indemnity insurances. These have been scrutinised, the Clerk constantly changing providers to get us the best deals and will continue to be monitored regularly. Our two part time workers are now tasked with

increasing usage in the VH to better support paid activities, offsetting services which tend not to make a profit.

- ❖ Another huge expense for us is the upkeep and maintenance of our smaller assets, bus shelters, grit bins, dog and litter bins, accidents and vandalism mean we are constantly repairing or replacing these items regularly.
- ❖ We also have a large contract with NWBC for the maintenance, upkeep and servicing of grass verges, litter picking, playground inspections. This is all done through contract.
- ❖ We continue to support local groups and volunteers, this year this included:
  - ABBC, the PC paying their public liability insurance and giving them free use of the POD as their clubhouse
  - FOBC, again we contribute to their public liability
  - St Nicholas Church, the PC are responsible for the upkeep of the Church Clock our WW1 memorial and also contribute £200 a year towards upkeep of the Churchyard
  - PIP fireworks, the PC contribute £250
  - The Pensioners Christmas Party, the PC with PIP contribute £250 each a year to fund this.
- ❖ Our biggest saving is the work completed locally by volunteers, Baddesley provides more services to the community than some of its larger counterparts (Polesworth/Dordon etc) and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those volunteers for their time and effort year on year to make this community what it is, a great place to live for families.

Lastly I would like to thank the Parish Council again volunteers for their efforts over the last year and our Clerk Geoff Taylor whose efforts hold most of the above together.

Lorna Ferguson  
Chair BEPC