

Chittlehampton Parish Council Chairman's Report 2018.

As the May AGM approaches and I sit here to write my third Chairman's Report I sometimes wonder where the time goes. It has been another eventful year with the usual complaints about the state of the roads, which I'm afraid are getting worse but it seems the council have no funds to repair them to any reasonable standard.

The saga of the affordable housing still goes on with changes having been made to the regulations, but a suitable site has still not been identified and the subject is sure to pop up again and again.

The Woodlands Bridge, the Umberleigh Railway Bridge signage problems and the damage to Eastacott Cross still haven't been resolved, but we will keep pushing until they are improved.

We no longer receive police reports but these have been replaced by a monthly newsletter and there is a facebook page for South Molton Police.

The "Tesco Bags Of Help" scheme awarded us £1,000 towards the new chippings for the play area at the village hall with the Parish Council paying the balance. The 355 bags of chippings were unpacked and spread during storm "Brian" and thanks must go to everyone who helped in appalling conditions.

The big event of the year was of course the filming for the BBC of "A Very English Scandal" with Hugh Grant starring as Jeremy Thorpe, which it seems will be aired in late May and we look forward to seeing our Parish Clerk's cottage dressed up as a post office. The film company donated £500.00 to the village. This money will pay for the planned improvements to the Square. They also paid £191.96 for damage to two of the pots on the Square, although this actually paid for four.

Due to damage caused to the defibrillator cabinet this was changed and the new one has no locking system which should alleviate the problem of gaining access to the unit. It was also discovered that the South West Ambulance Service should not have been maintaining the defibrillator free of charge, the Parish Council are now responsible for all repairs and replacement parts.

Our next big venture will be the night landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance on the playing field behind the village hall, the site has been inspected by the safety officer and he has agreed that it is suitable, we are now awaiting a quotation for the works.

Fundraising has already begun with a coffee morning thanks to Carole Henderson-Begg and her helpers, we will also be applying for money from the TAP Fund with the backing of Atherington Parish Council.

The planning application for the Lerwell Beach Tree Cross corner to be eased went in to the planning department on 23rd. November and despite every effort from Councillor Hooper it still hasn't been passed, but I'm sure he will keep chasing.

Two dog bins have been purchased for Umberleigh and these are now in place.

A quote has been received for the tidying of the beds in the square and the works should be carried out in the near future thanks to Councillor Edwards.

We have taken measures to meet the new Data Protection Act which comes into force on 25th. May.

Again this year my thanks must go to our county and district councillors and of course to all of our parish councillors with a special mention to Councillor Timberlake for all of the work he carries out without charging us, to Councillor Hooper for his continued hard work on planning and my rock our Parish Clerk Rose.

Martin Ives. Chairman.