

## Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 29 April 2019

### Chairman's Report

**Introduction** – Welcome and thank you for choosing to attend this meeting. Once we have completed the meeting Patrick Hendra and his Eastleigh Young Engineers will provide us with an exciting display of model making. I am very pleased he is my neighbor. Patrick is an eminent physicist who has been recognized for his work. Please continue to help yourselves to wine and canapes.

The Parish Council consists of 5 councillors and we have all been re-elected as such. I am currently the Chair and we all hold a Portfolio of duties anything that slips between these portfolios is dealt by all of us. We have a continual email round of correspondence in which all are free to give their views and suggestions to what ever is currently being discussed.

**Rina** deals with Traffic and she will talk to you about this later in her report including plans for village initiatives to calm traffic. **Fred** has been on the committee for the longest as Chairman for 7 years and is a very safe pair of hands for our accounts, thank you Fred. **Tim** looks after the Pond and Trees, and is planning exciting developments, thank you Tim. **Carole** was our former chair and continues to deal with the playground and the burial ground, each of which require her experience to deal with.

A special thank you to **Jill** too for keeping us within the bounds of the law relating to PC's and for all her hard work.

**Precept** – The precept is a tax charged on each property in the parish to fund the PC. It is used to fund all the activities that we undertake for the benefit of the community. Having decided what monies the PC needs, the District Council adds this to the other precepts for Police, Fire etc and this becomes your Council Tax.

Our Accounts are audited each year and open for inspection by the public. We are very conscious of what we spend money on and do not wish to waste it. It is never enough for everything; the Cricket Club and Playground committee do their own fundraising and it would be lovely to be able to mow the Burial Ground more.

**Village Days** – Thank you to all those who turned up to do the annual Litterpick. We are keen to make sure this preempts the village garden open days so Crawley can look its best. We have also tried to ask residents to collect litter around their homes and when out walking. We always collect about the

same amount of rubbish and there was a huge pile left in the layby outside Panoramics ready for collection. This makes a big difference to the appearance of our beautiful village.

There was also a Pond Clearance and cut back morning and thank you to all those who turned up to help with this. Tim will tell you about our further plans for the pond.

**Lengthsman** – We are still fortunate to have a Lengthsman who turns up every 3 months and does 12 hours work. This is funded by Hampshire County Council and Jill has been responsible to organizing this scheme. The Lengthsman does all the jobs that need doing but not covered by us, sweeping and clearing pavements, unblocking the drain by the pond, strimming, cutting ivy back and so on. We always manage to find enough for them to do.

**Memorial Garden** – Conor Wheeler Piera now mows the lawn and although we have asked for volunteers to maintain the planted verges we have decided to hire a professional gardener to undertake regular weeding and up keep. We will be cleaning the letter plates of the memorial during the summer.

**The Pub** – renamed The Fox is now open after what appeared to be a difficult project. The owners invested considerable sums into the property and this will hopefully safe guard the existence of a pub in our village for generations to come. Parking is still a big concern.

**Village Design Statement** – This has now being rewritten by the PC and Carole will discuss this further.

**Broadband** – There are currently a few clusters of houses that have fast Broadband supplied by Giga Beam. BT have now upgraded their service in the village.

**Anaerobic Digester at Sparsholt College** – Planning consent has been garneted for amendments to the application, but we have yet to hear about when works will commence. We have also yet to be contacted about the operator's plans to transport fuel stuffs and waste through the village.

**Traffic** – Probably the biggest issue that we have dealt with this year and Rina will talk to you about this in her report.

**Village Open Gardens** ; Patricia 35 years and Crawley gardens 34 years. Gardens were open over the Easter weekend and there were more than 500 visitors to the village raising close to £5,000 for charity. We were keen to see how traffic congestion would work and were pleased to see how responsible the garden victors parked; sadly this is not always reflected with visitors to the pub, and we are speaking to WCC about possible solutions.

**Conclusion** – You can always access our website that we try to keep up to date and you can read the Minutes of our meetings there. We produce a Newsletter 6 times a year which is sent out with the Parish Magazine. You are also free to contact each of us in relation to our portfolios or the Chair if you have any concerns within the Village.

Peter Deehan – Chair