

Enstone Annual Parish Meeting
Chair's Report
09.05.2019

Good evening everyone and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

I would like to start by saying The Parish Council have all been re-elected but we lose one, The Vice Chair, Peter Butler. I would like to thank him for all his dedicated contribution to the Parish Council – so, moving forward, we have one vacancy.

We seem yet again to have had a very busy year with some large planning applications keeping us very occupied. The Mullin Project, Land South of Oxford Road and Barnmead in Church Enstone. Sadly, three large houses that have been built in our Parish all sit empty - Willow brook in Radford, one in Lidstone and Enstone Hall in Church Enstone.

Soho House continues to increase in size - Heythrop Park is selling out to Warner Leisure. The company building the bunds around the Shooting School on the airfield has gone in to liquidation and we are waiting to see what happens next.

Peter Butler spent a lot of time working with OCC on traffic calming measures on the A44 and in Gagingwell. The A44 is difficult through the village as the road is too narrow for safer crossings. We are considering flashing speed signs in Gagingwell. Councillor Hilary Hibbert Biles kindly gave us a grant towards new speed watch equipment for which we thank her. The “hair dryer” as I call it, is no longer allowed to be used.

A few members of the council had a very educational evening at Renault learning about formula 1 and looking around the premises.

ABN kindly donated a snow plough to the village and Sam Parsons from Radford has kindly offered to have it fitted to one of his tractors and to organize the work when needed to keep the main routes open. Luckily this year this was not necessary.

OCC offered all Parishes a tree in Remembrance of Armistice day for World War one. Richard kindly went to pick the tree up, only to discover it was a Black Thorn, so the Parish Council agreed to purchase a Liquid Amber tree - the leaves will turn red in the Autumn and we have planted it on the village green.

We have meet with Thames Water after yet another pipe burst and sewage flowed in to the Glyme. Thames water are testing the pipes to see if any need replacing and ask again if we can not put wet wipes and nappies down our toilets, these can easily cause blockages. A resident has also met with SSE after complaints Enstone was suffering with endless power cuts. They are working on the various problems.

This year the council has made donations to St. Kenelm's Church for a new pew following its extensive restoration, Chippy Theatre, Citizens advice, the Ensign and Volunteer link up.

Moving forward the precept for 2019//20 has decreased by £1,216.00.

We have stayed with WODC for cutting the grass - every year throws up different challenges but we thank them.

After a year of trying and 'phone rage we have finally succeeded in getting online banking approved – this was after we drove to Witney and demanded a meeting.

We have received a quote to finally get the notice board repaired.

Philip and Carole kindly organized a very successful Litter Pick Campaign and were joined by a great number of the Parish, thank you all.

Thank you to County Councilor Hilary Hibbert Biles for her continuous work supporting us. Congratulations to District Councillor Andrew Beaney for being re-elected and we look forward to many more challenges for him to solve.

As always our thanks go to Rachel and Kate for keeping the website and Facebook page updated.

This has been a very busy, tough and sometimes challenging year and I thank my fellow Councillors for their support and dedication towards the Parish. Beth, what would we do without you? Always on the end of the phone and answering emails, giving sound advice and keeping me calm.

Thank you Beth.