

## **Draft**

### **Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.47p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors, B. Nelson (Chairman), Mrs. E. Bradshaw, V. Game, Mrs. S. Howgill, Mrs. V. Jones, A. McArdle, L. Roberts, I Chubb (DCC), K. Granger (Clerk) and two members of the public.

The Chairman thanked the various clubs/organizations for sending their reports of the last 12 months. Cllr. Nelson said the community exists only with help from local residents, voluntary work sometimes does not get mentioned but without it there is no community. Cllr. Nelson said our Church was in a healthy state but attendance was declining, the hall trustees had a good turnover in the first year with the new hall, income well ahead of expenses, the trustees need new blood to join them on their committee. The Chairman said our school had a good Ofsted report with pupils enjoying their work and although a commercial venture, the village shop/post office was a great asset.

Cllr. Nelson went on to say as a Parish Council we tackled three big issues this year, our broadband bid to Europe for funding with the Blackdown Hills for superfast broadband which although not succeeding has helped in speeding up the service in many areas. Our Neighbourhood Plan now nearing completion, the introduction to be re-written and the communications and compliance reports, and lastly the acquisition of the extended hall car park.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their work put in over the last 12 months, more and more work now falling on parish councils rather than District and County with their increasing cut-backs, he was very appreciative of the voluntary work they do with many different projects for the community.

Cllr. Nelson thanked Cllr. Paul Diviani for his work on District and County over the years and especially for all his help in many many ways locally for us, also to Cllr. Skinner for his continued help especially with the new hall car park. Thanks also went out to the Hammond family at Luton, Steve Eastland Designs, Richard Batten at Clyst William, Richard King at Tozers and especially Dougie Allen and the Gundry family for their gift of land. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for his continued help.

The meeting closed at 8.04p.m.