

## Parish Council AGM Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 Chairman's report

A new Parish Council was elected a year ago, with 6 nominations there was left one vacancy this I am pleased to say has been filled by Steve Christian in January. I was re-elected as Chairman and Steve Caley as vice chairman.

There have been a number of planning applications to comment on during the year these include July an extension to 10 Church Road, an extension to Orchard House both supported by the Parish Council and an application to Church View cottage the first application was withdrawn the Parish Council was opposed to but in March a second application was given permission. The planning application for a new Village Hall was supported in June. In discussion with the planning authority the roof at Rookery Farm Barn conversion was changed from galvanised iron to pantiles.

The stationing of a defibrillator has been put on hold while the new village hall is under construction. In July the war memorial at St Margaret's Church was rededicated the memorial is now again in excellent condition well done to everyone involved in this work. In October a new alarm system was installed at the church due to the many thefts of lead from church roofs in Suffolk.

Lack of a good broadband coverage is a continued problem in particular as one pole on the Wyverstone to Westhorpe Road has twice been damaged by cars.

In February the long running saga of the application to build Wind Turbines in Wyverstone was finally over with the inspector rejecting the proposal.

Last month after many years outstanding service Vince Clarkson retired as out neighbourhood policeman, he has been involved with several issues almost all have had a satisfactory outcome, I have written to him expressing our appreciation.

The annual litter pick took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April and for a short while the village was immaculate, in fairness we do not collect as much rubbish as in earlier years but the morons who throw rubbish from their cars or fly tip remain.

Last July Roy Barker our District Councillor raised the issue of the future of the Bacton Middle School site, the school has closed and Suffolk County Council seem intent on extracting the maximum return, Steve Caley and I have attended 3 meetings two with representatives of Finningham, Cotton, Bacton and Wyverstone. One was an open meeting in Bacton Church attended by 70 people there is a strong local feeling that a large proportion of the site should be retained for local sport and recreation, the County Council cannot just build on sports grounds and it is vital local people make contact to Suffolk County Council and register their concerns. There is a lack of sports provision in the 5 parishes in fact there is no provision in Westhorpe, Wyverstone and Finningham with just a small football pitch in Cotton. Bacton largely due to the outstanding work of the football club have an excellent facility but this only caters for football, sports like tennis, netball, cricket have no grounds.

Finally I would like to thank Glen Horn who has acted as clerk for around two years, he has said he will stand down due to his commitments at Mid Suffolk District Council we urgently need a new clerk. Thank you to all the Parish Councillors for your support and efforts this past year.