

Chairman's Report for Annual Parish Meeting  
Hinton Blewett Parish Council, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013

This report is for the second year of our four year term from 2011-2015.

The main focus of the Parish Council's attention have been on securing a lease for a playing field, getting the planning permission through and putting in place the preparatory works. The Council's role as a planning consultee has involved us in twelve planning applications during the year which is quite a considerable number given the number of properties in the parish.

Unfortunately, Planning Enforcement continues to provide a less than satisfactory service. The Parish Council has repeatedly chased them since last year to even respond on one particular contravention which has been on-going since 2007 and was the subject of an appeal in 2011. Trying to prevent unauthorised occupation of land becoming residential use can take a considerable amount of councillors' personal time, let alone any submission of objections reports or attendance at meetings, most of which our local community is rarely aware.

With the co-operation of the Planning Case Officer and the Highways Safety Engineer a good solution for the entrance to the playing field was achieved. Work on the entrance has been completed and the ground works are nearing conclusion thanks to a great deal of hard work put in by the Playing Field Management Committee.

We have been assured by B&NES World Heritage Manager that the draft Parish Appraisal should be ready soon, and that they do fully intend to take this project through to completion with the next stage being community consultation. We will probably need to chase them too.

It has been a difficult year for our local Highways inspector with so much rain but he continues to be pro-active with the patching regime adopted by B&NES and the 2013-2014 Highways programme includes surface dressing for Cameley Lane, Litton Lane and Whitehouse Lane. It's important that we keep up the routine reporting of defects which will help to ensure that standards of maintenance are kept up.

The Village Agent coffee mornings have been very successful with 17 parishioners coming along to last week's session.

The draft Annual Accounts are available and will be approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council. The charges the Council has to meet continue to rise and account for the small increase of £198 in the Precept for 2013-14.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their hard work over this last year particularly Alan and Brian and the co-opted members of the Playing Field Management Committee and others for all their efforts in helping to prepare the playing field. I would especially also like to thank our new Clerk, Jen McCallan, who started in November and who has worked really hard to get to grips with job. She has attended two training sessions designed for new Clerks. Whether a parish is big or small, it's a huge learning curve for a new Clerk and Jen has done extremely well and is very conscientious.

April 2013