

## **Longstanton Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2015**

Good evening everyone 2014-2015 has been a very active year and I am indebted to all Councillors and Parish Council staff who have put time and effort into this past year to achieve what it has.

I would also like to thank the whole community who have helped in various projects throughout the year.

So what has been achieved this year?

You may have noticed the Longstanton Village Sign has been completely refurbished giving the village a focal point that is outstanding. This was achieved using a Community Grant from SCDC. This coming year the 2 village pumps will be refurbished using a Community grant from SCDC.

I would personally like to thank Libby for organising the Village Litter Pick which again gets a lot of Community involvement and makes the Village look good. Thank you to everyone who participates in the litter picks.

All these things go towards making our village look and feel nice place to live in.

The two phone boxes have been adopted by the village and will be converted into different facilities for the Community. The one on the High Street will shortly become a Community book swap point.

The Council has adopted St Michael's Churchyard which is now receiving regular maintenance adding to the overall look of the village.

This year Council reinstated the Connections Bus from January 2015. This provides facilities for the younger adult age group within the village, working from the Recreation ground car park. This has been very well received and is proving to be very popular especially as the village grows.

This brings me on to the Recreation Ground itself. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, we officially opened the new extended children's playground which has had a major overhaul with new play equipment. Thank you everyone for their patience as we did have some teething problems with work which did not get completed when we expected, but I am sure you agree it really was worth waiting for.

This now brings into the spotlight that we now need another area for the older young adults of the community and that will be looked at this coming year.

The Recreation ground itself was finalised into the Fields of Trust scheme for Longstanton and the plaque can be seen in the raised border. This means the Recreation ground is in Trust and nothing can change its status it is there as a recreational space for the residents of Longstanton.

We are in the process of setting up agreements with the various sports groups who use the recreation ground for their sports. These will be completed over the next few months.

The Pavilion continues to be a completely separate entity from the Council. It is an asset of the village and all financial issues are now completed.

The Future Development Committee has started work on looking at the future needs of the village in the form of a new facilities. Over the next 12 months I am sure that many of you will become involved in some way in this project. My thanks go to the whole of the Committee for their input into this very large undertaking.

The Parish Council has upgraded the chairs as you can see for the Village Institute and these are provided for the use of this facility.

We have over the last year had 4 new Councillors, 3 from Home Farm which is really good to see. My thanks go to the Councillors Les Elby, Nick White and Steve McMillan and 1 Councillor from St Michael's, Neil McPhater. Thank you for your contribution so far and in the future.

Libby White, Parish Clerk has now completed her CiLCA training and will shortly be handing in the Portfolio of work for evaluation. Council have agreed to a Community Work Placement person to help with the tidying up of old documents and archiving. Thank you Libby for all your hard work that you have done over the past year.

We also now have a new Financial Officer, Mrs Moira Caborn who is working closely with the Finance Committee and will work on the budget for next year which will begin to be put together in November. This financial year sees the reserves return to their prescribed amount of £75K. It was agreed back in December 2012 that we would take 3 years to build them back up again to the this amount and we will have achieved this in this financial year. Thank you for your assistance here and at Full Council Meetings as well and with meetings with the auditors.

During the year a forensic audit was completed on the Pavilion prior to April 2012 to see if further evidence could be given to the Police. The report was accepted by Council. There is an open case that the Police are dealing with and Council will report back if we are notified of any actions resulting from their enquiries.

Home Farm continues to be worked upon. 4 areas have now been handed over to the Parish Council. Two further areas are in the process of transfer and a further piece will be signed over shortly.

Council is working with Persimmon to get further pieces of Home Farm adopted including the Village Green. We are also working with the various agencies including CCC to have Home Farm roads adopted. There will be more on this in the Home Farm report.

### ***Northstowe***

Phase 1 is just starting as you are probably all aware. Phase 2 is still being worked on we continue to represent the views of Longstanton residents. It has been a very busy year and it will be getting busier. Councillor Riley will have more to say on this so I will keep my report very short on this one.

So on reflection a good year lots achieved and loads still to achieve and I now welcome any questions.

***Gill Ashby***