**Parish Council Chairman’s Annual Report**

2016-17 has been a busy year for the Parish Council. For a start we were sad to receive a resignation letter from Sarah, our Clerk, who has found the pressures from her other Councils too great, and so she regretfully felt she had to leave us. After much searching we are very glad to welcome Claudia, who has joined us from the beginning of 2017. Welcome Claudia, and we hope you will be very happy with us.

For as long as I have lived in this Village people have talked about the possibility of Mains Drainage, and finally in October 2016 Anglian Water began working to that end. However the original estimates for completion have gone out the window, with the height of the water table, and so the work will continue on through the summer season, which was not what Anglian Water and the Highways Department wanted. In the interests of the eventual outcome we will grin and bear it! But I doubt that out summer visitors will see it that way.

The spin off from this is that we have the beginnings of the desired treadway which has been constructed by the contractors. It runs between the bus shelter and the layby in front of the garage. Which brings me onto the next piece of excitement, it does look as though the garage might open in the foreseeable future. It will have a little supermarket as well, which will be more than welcome.

The other news is that we are in the process of utilizing our now defunct telephone box on Church Road, by installing an emergency defibrillator within it. For the princely sum of £1 we have purchased it for our use from BT. We are in consultation with the Community Heartbeat Trust and the ambulance service over installation and servicing.

We do have all our old chestnuts raising their heads as they do every year - dog fouling, it seems we have difficulty in getting the message through in some circles. There has been flooding in Tower Road again, but Barhale, the contractors, have been helpful in pumping out the area when required. We hope that some further excavations in the ditch on the other side of the road have addressed the problem.

We would like to thank our Borough Councillors Barry and Mary Coleman who have supported us through the past year, and say a farewell and thanks to Michael Carrtiss who is standing down from the County Council this year. Finally and definitely not least, I would like to thank on your behalf, our hard working Parish Councillors who do so much for the Parish - Andrew who attends Parish Liaison meetings on our behalf, Andrew, David and Phil who keep a watchful over the Allotments, Fred who has been our very able Vice Chair, John who just does a lot of things he has seen need doing, and Thomas who also keeps a watchful eye over us all as he walks his dog about the Village - there are so many things they just do! Last, but should be first, our special thanks to Claudia, who picked us up in the middle of the year, and so far it has been a seamless transition - Claudia we couldn’t function without you - thank you.

Finally I would like to thank our Parishioners, who turn up to our meetings through the year, it means a lot to us your interest in our work from month to month, so thank you.

Alison