

# CHAIRMANS REPORT 2016 - 2018

## Parish Council Election May 2016

Following the Parish Council election in May 2016 Terri Sargent was the only Parish Councillor to take office. Basildon Council had to intervene and appoint Borough Councillors Stuart Allen and Andrew Schrader to assist Terri to continue the business of the Council and appoint a temporary Clerk until a By-Election was held. At the first Parish Council meeting in June 2016 and upon receipt of the Parish Council's belongings, the newly appointed temporary Clerk reported the iMac computer contents had been deleted, the hard drive had been damaged and the back-up drive broken beyond repair. The internal audit had not been started and an Internal Auditor had not been appointed. During the audit process it came to light documents were in disarray many were missing, money was owed to HMRC for previous years' salaries, VAT had not been claimed, neither was a grant from Essex County Council. The audit therefore had to be delayed and was carried out on best endeavours.

## Parish Council By-Election July 2016

A By-Election in July 2016 brought forward new Parish Councillors willing to tackle the issues inherited and put the Council back on track. In August 2016 the Parish Council resolved to report the state of Council's financial and administrative affairs to the Police.

## Back on Track by 2017

Over a year later in October 2017, the Police investigation concluded "insufficient evidence, no further action". After the initial expense of putting the Parish affairs in good order and to prevent the Council from future negligence, rules and regulations were adopted and published. The Council issued a mission statement:

*"We Intend to Serve the Community with Openness, Honesty and Integrity and Ensure Value for Money as a Top Priority"*

## What Have We Done Since May 2016

- \*Set up meetings in the Village Hall
- \*Reduced telephone and internet costs
- \*Replaced CCTV
- \*Restored the iMac
- \*Awarded grant aid to the Pre-School, Nature Reserve Society & Residents Association
- \*Installed a Petanque Court in the Village Hall Garden
- \*Invested in new Finger Post Signs
- \*Leaf Swept Hot Spots Areas
- \*Held a Spring Consultation Event and Summer Event
- \*Removed redundant outdoor gym equipment
- \*Installed Bollards & Boulders as protection measures on Wash Road Playing Field
- \*Produced 4 Newsletters
- \*Employed a new Clerk.

## Parish Council Proposals for 2018/2019

After setting a balanced budget and precept in March 2018 we resolved this year to spend the accumulation of Reserves on community projects; aim for timely audits; public inspection and publication of accounts. We also aim to continue to serve the community according to our mission statement. After two difficult years, the Parish Council is now in a vastly improved financial position. Assisted by the Clerk we intend to continue to support and improve the Noak Bridge Parish.