

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 22nd May 2018

During the course of the last year the Council has worked to ensure the issues that matter to the residents of Buckerell have been examined, discussed and action taken as best we can. The Council has highlighted the village views and needs to the local authorities, local police and some large organisations who have wanted to have an impact on our locality, such as the Ramblers Association and Gigaclear Ltd.

The year has not been without its challenges. The DCC Definitive Map Review meant we were subject to a number of footpath proposals. This caused a deal of worry for many residents and we were pleased to see an eventual outcome of only minor change. We have seen increased pressure on car parking needs – an inevitable consequence of modern living – and have taken action to resolve problems as they arise. The condition of our roads is subject to increased pressure on the DCC Highways budget, but we have done what we can to lobby the department for attention, including the successful bidding for funding to do ditch work on the Feniton Lane, to avoid flooding in heavy rain. Councillor Jo Gillingham decided to step down so we lost her experienced voice and we were faced with severe winter weather that left us cut off occasionally. Sadly we also lost our Clerk, Richard Reeve whose untimely death left a big void in our midst.

There have been positive highlights. Several planning applications have been considered, and for the most part approved. The village Maintenance schedule has undergone a years' worth of activity and the village looks well-kept for it. The BT superfast broadband service has brought more usable connectivity in many households in the village, and we welcome Gigaclear in their efforts to provide better internet service to many who still do not benefit, and competition to BT. As summer approaches, many households are taking advantage of the EDDC green waste service, and saving the transportation of garden waste to refuse sites. We still have a mobile library visit once a month and a public bus once a week! Looking forward, we have been successful again in bidding for funding for ditching work, and are working towards obtaining a defibrillator either via community funding or a mix of Council funding and locality budget. We have a new Councillor (Mr Geoff Wright) and a new Clerk (Mr Ian Tucker).

We have held 6 meetings since the last AGM. My grateful thanks go to Prue Pinsent for being Vice Chairman, Russell Powell and Clare Slater for all their work and commitment. I was sorry to lose Jo Gillingham as councillor, and I thank her for the hard work during her time on the council. We look forward to Geoff Wright getting stuck in to his new role. My thanks also to PCSO Phil Anning, who has since moved on and I welcome PCSO Darren England and look forward to working with him. EDDC and County Councillors Susie Bond and Phil Twiss bring illuminating input from their respective councils and we thank them all for their support and contributions.

No matter how committed or enthusiastic a band of councillors can be, we cannot do it without the assistance of a clerk and I thank Ian Tucker for taking up the vacant position. Ian has already been on a training course for clerks so we look forward to him 'keeping us on track' in both Council procedure and financial matters. Ian has

also taken on the task of maintaining the PC website, to ensure our presence is out there for all on the global map.

The council once again has a strong position with regards to finances. The annual precept has remained in line with recent years as we have a healthy 'contingency fund' to finance any projects we undertake. We have explored various projects to benefit the village and we constantly seek to use funds for the enhancement of the locality and services. We are always happy to receive suggestions of projects that will further benefit Buckerell and our residents.

Once again we must thank Mr David Wayne whose role changed from 'Plastics recycling Champion' to 'Village Maintenance Man'. The Buckerell Bugle continues to provide a valuable voice to the village and our thanks go to Mr Roy Williams, the editor and to Mrs Patricia Craig-Macquaide for continuing the good work. Thanks also go to St Mary and St Giles Church and Mr Doug Cowan for providing the venue for our meetings.

Finally, thank you to the parishioners of Buckerell for your continued support, communication and enthusiasm in making Buckerell such a lovely place to live. The Parish Council will continue to look forward, and to look after the interests of the village, its residents and its businesses for the future of us all.

Wendy Wayne
Chair
Buckerell Parish Council