

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD PARISH COUNCIL 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Evening and may I welcome you all and thank you for giving up your time to be here for the AGM of the Parish Council 2018. Please feel free to raise any questions that you may have tonight.

My first duty of the night is to thank, on your behalf, all of my fellow members of the Parish Council. They work tirelessly for us and are a huge asset to our community. As your Chairman, I could not do my job without such fantastic support and I add my personal thanks to all of you for your sterling work and for your diligence and commitment to the parishioners of South Newton and Stoford.

#### Review and update on matters from last year:

We are still pushing forward with fund raising for the new extension to the Village Hall. We continue to exploit all avenues for grants and fund raising.

I shall mention again, that we have a clothes bin for recycling in South Newton village, which helps fund the Air Ambulance. We are ever mindful of this service given we all live near such a dangerous road.

The C283 Stoford Bottom road continues to cause us all grief. It is being used by many more drivers and increasingly by HGVs following their Sat Navs. This Tuesday the A303 was closed following an accident and Stoford Bottom was quickly jammed as large numbers of HGVs used it and got stuck against oncoming traffic. We are lobbying as hard as we can and I am able to report that a SID (Speed Indication Device) is going to be set up at the Stoford Bottom end. We are still hopeful of getting the remedial work carried out sometime soon and we anticipate that a weight restriction may be secured.

The residential roads in South Newton village are becoming more dangerous due to cars being parked where the roads are narrow. After many near accidents and complaints by villagers, we are trying to encourage everyone to use the car parks which have space.

#### Events:

##### The Summer Fete

The Summer Fete was held on Saturday 8th July. Hard work but a great success and we raised about £800. for each organisation.

This year, we shall be holding a Dog Show in September and hopefully we shall have some stalls on the day including Tea and Coffee and cake stall.

##### The Football Club six-a-side tournament

This annual event is always a highlight of our year, with the Ladies being held on the Saturday and the Men's on the Sunday. The dates for this year are 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, Sunday being Father's Day again. The Village Hall Committee will be providing the refreshments and food and any help you are able to offer will be very gratefully received. Once again, a big thank you to everyone who gives up their time to make this a very successful occasion for everybody. Please attend if you can and support your local football club and village hall on a very enjoyable day for all.

##### Litter Picking

Not really an event! However, a very small group of us carried out a litter pick in March. Unbelievable how much was collected. Yet again, this included vast quantities of dog mess!! Please, please think

about your environment and a big thank you to those who were involved.

### **Wiltshire Council Phone App**

I am mentioning again this app, have a look when you get a minute. It is very good.

### **The Parish Steward Scheme**

You may have seen the gentleman and his van around. General works/ cleaning of weeds and tidying up. He is doing a fantastic job and the villages are looking much better. Sadly, I do not have his name.

### **Crime**

It is pleasing to say that we are not suffering with much crime at the moment. Long may this continue.

### **Time to say thank you**

Lorraine Sherlock is standing down after supporting us so much and a huge thank you for everything you have done for us. You will be missed.

Welcome to Richard Botton who, with Mike is working hard at Stoford. Mike is currently in hospital and we wish him all the best.

Our local Councillor Pauline Church is doing a great job and we wish her well in her campaign to get the Wilton Railway Station reopened.

This concludes my report for this year. Thank you all for coming this evening and may I take any questions from the floor.

**Derek Blake (Chairman)**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

