

Good evening everyone.

The purpose of the two meetings tonight is firstly “The Annual Parish Meeting” is to look back over the past 12 months and report on what the PC have been involved in on behalf of the community.

The second meeting “The AGM” is to elect a chair and also present the accounts and sign them off to external auditors. Once these items are taken care of the normal business of a parish meeting is undertaken.

Let me just say a bit about the PC and its make up;

Ros has left and Anna has joined us as our Clerk, Our handyman John has left and we will not be replacing but applying more pressure to the Borough to better maintain the area. Tony Harrison has moved away and we have gained a new councillor in Parbinder. A governance review was undertaken last year and part of that review was to recommend an increase in parish councillors to 9 from 2019 elections. Good management practice was demonstrated with a good external audit and no qualification

The last 12 months then.

- Road safety is something that causes concern - speeding and dangerous and inconsiderate parking is the main culprit so the PC has taken note of resident’s concerns and is introducing yellow lines at junctions and a no verge or kerb parking. The Borough will issue fixed penalty fines for those ignoring the new traffic order.
 - The retail parking area has been fitted with speed ramps
 - A pedestrian crossing – across the parking area has been marked out
 - Double yellow lines have been put into Saxon Way and Anglia Way.
 - Road markings on the roundabout on Kingswood Way have been marked out.
- One of the other major issues facing residents is the unfair and poorly constructed method that the Borough and Developer decided on for funding the open space management. The PC has met the Mayor and CEO on several occasions to challenge on behalf of residents this charge. I won’t go into the detail as Councillor Stuart – who has worked

diligently and doggedly on this issue will update us all in the second part of the meeting.

- Community activities have received a much needed focus and support by the introduction of the new community hall. The Winter Wonderland in December, the Easter challenge and GD Bake-off have all been successful and extremely well supported. Watch out for
 - Saturday 16th June – Great Denham Summer Festival
 - Race night in support of BDCPS – 30TH June
 - September 22nd – Casino Night
 - Saturday 4th October – Full of Life – activities and event for older people
 - Friday 26th October – Halloween children's Disco
 - Saturday 9th December – Great Denham Winter Wonderland
 - There are also 47 classes run at the hall every week in addition to weddings, business use, children's parties and many other events.
 - I'm also happy to report that the charity the PC set up to operate the hall have had a very successful first full financial year by providing a surplus to plough back into staging the events mentioned for the benefit of parish residents. The PC wants to acknowledge and give our thanks for the great work and support that the Trustees are providing for the community.
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- The litter pick was attended by 28 volunteers on 25th March and 25 bags of rubbish were collected.
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- Litter Superheroes Poster Competition run by the school and the PC and linked to the litter pick over 150 entries and 22 prizes of book tokens were awarded at the school assembly.
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- Grants made this year were Autism Bedfordshire and the Winter Wonderland Event.
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- Bus service #11 – new service put in place following Stagecoach decision to withdraw the service.
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- CCTV – action taken to improve service levels regarding outage reporting
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- Medical centre – PC pulled together focus groups to advise MC of views by public.

- Challenge to many planning requests due to inadequate parking provision.

Priorities over the coming months

- Increase in notice boards and development of a digital communication system that doesn't fall foul of the GDPR
- Extended CCTV coverage to include the new areas of development.
- The implementation of the new parking enforcement.
- To continue to reduce the parish precept year on year
- To ensure that our own already registered football/rugby/cricket clubs get a fair allocation of sports pitches within the new country park and pavilion.
- Continue to pursue improvements to facilities within GD and day to day reporting of faults and developer responsibilities.
- Support residents with issues from management companies and help in getting Resident Directors appointed.
- Start of a process of collecting views from residents on areas of importance so that we can plan budgets and activities for 2019/20.