

TPC Chairman Report May 2019

I took over the role of Chairman in January 2019 from John Secker so the first point I would like to say is a big thank you to John for all his hard work.

We have had the usual 8 PC meetings during 2018-19 but in January we transferred our meeting place back to West Thirston, we thought it appropriate to have our meetings in our parish. We now meet in Pumpkin Pie Nursery (formerly URC hall). Thank you to Felton Village Hall for use of their premises in the last 4 years.

As well as John S leaving the council Anne Morton also resigned so thanks go to her too. We have therefore 2 new councillors Simon Allan (resident of Wintrick) who joined us in August 2018 and more recently in April, Trevor Jackson who lives in Burgham. You are both very welcome.

It has been a busy year for the council with a number of issues still outstanding. The big application for housing to the west of the village was refused in July 2018 but the applicant appealed in December 2018 and we await the outcome. The work on the 'new' bridge has finally started at the beginning of May after a long wait but our thanks go to County Councillor Glen Sanderson who has worked hard to get this to happen. The PC continues to liaise with NCC about potholes, street lighting, bins and footpaths (in particular those which will be affected by A1 dualling). Parking is still a problem but this is to be left until bridge work is completed. Many parishioners have complained about the airfield, the noise, overflying, increased flying hours, helicopters and larger aircraft. The local councillors have been unsuccessful in solving the problem but in September 2019 the position is to be reviewed by NCC. TPC regularly attends meetings organised by NCC as well as having representatives on the joint Cemetery Committee and Recreation Field Committee. The council continues to review costs. The precept for 2019-20 has been increased to £8500 (from £8000) to meet increasing expenditure. Some money has been allocated for the Neighbourhood Plan but most of this will be reimbursed from grants which are available.

Throughout the year so much hard work has been done by Lisa Hamlin our clerk it is difficult to remember it all! A very big thank you goes to her. And finally a thank you to all members of the council for their attendance and contribution at the meetings; Simon Allan, Euan Davison, Doug Green, Anne Morton, John Secker and most recently Trevor Jackson but especially to John Marshall who is now Vice Chair and invaluable, he has a wonderful way with words when writing our various reports.