

## Chairman's Report 2012 - 2013

This past year has brought about progress and stability to the Parish Council.

We have had a number of changes to the Council, with the appointment of a new Clerk, I as Chair and the departure of a number of Councillors.

We have had a busy year; reviewing the Grounds maintenance contracts for the various play areas and engaging with SMBC to provide us with services to ensure all our play areas are kept in good condition and well maintained, with regular inspections. A new fence has been installed at Chadwick End play area to fence off the children's play area from the rest of the park.

The Cemetery had been allowed to become neglected and a review of this led to the landscaping contractor agreeing to carry out work to the grounds that they had failed to undertake. This saved the Council nearly £2,000. The upper and lower part of the cemetery is now being maintained and we have built a compost storage unit that will allow us to reduce waste and recycle on site. We have also painted the woodwork and guttering to ensure this area is kept in good condition. Moles have appeared and work is underway to deal with these in a humane way.

The fees have also been reviewed and the Parish Council has agreed to a phased increase of the fees to apply from June 2013.

The village centre has seen the appearance of new planters outside the shops and on the rail guards to the roundabout. You will all agree that this enhances the appearance of the village and we are working towards further improvements in the village with new additional planters and improvements to the roundabout.

Also, the Christmas display was improved this year with new lights and a Christmas tree that all added to the festive cheer.

We are continuing to support the village and have made donations to the Jubilee Centre, the village hall, the Hornets football club, the Scouts, the library and HS2 action group.

We have also been working closely with SMBC in dealing with neighbourhood issues relating to anti-social behaviour that have arisen and will continue to work with SMBC. We are also in consultation with SMBC regarding the parking issues in the village and the pedestrian crossing.

The Governance Review for Chadwick End has been completed with the decision for a new Parish Council in Chadwick End being created. This is due to come into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Elections will take place in Chadwick End for Councillors to run the Parish.

As a consequence, the assets in Chadwick End will be transferred to the new Council. This includes the Village Hall that has been subject to flooding last year. Work has taken place to restore the village hall and carry out essential maintenance work.

The Parish Council will continue working to improve the service that it provides and having dealt with the backlog, it is hoped that we can look at further improvements to the village. We also hope to have a few new faces on the Parish Council in the coming year.