

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman's Report

May 2015

A fairly uneventful year. Some of the more notable activity has been within the Parish Council itself. There has been a fair bit of churning within the ranks of the Council. After the death of Lloyd Jones our Chairman in February 2014 John Dickenson very kindly agreed to join the Council. Then Christine Brown resigned and her place was taken by Bob Morcom. Whilst all this was going on Pam Harrison our clerk resigned and her place was taken by Georgina Fox. In summary this all sounds rather chaotic but thanks to the dedication and good humour of everybody involved we managed to muddle through. Though it did involve me in a fair bit of door knocking round the community whilst I tried to persuade various mildly startled Benington residents that their time for office had come. So I would like to thank everybody involved for giving up their time for the good of the village. Finally it being an election year Ken Grundy, Mike Spicer, Karen Mays and John Dickenson decided not to stand again. I would like to thank them for their time spent on the Parish Council.

The last year has not seen that many planning applications of particular note. However several applications from the past have come to fruition. The garage site on the northern edge of Blacksmiths hill has been completed and occupied. The garage site on the southern side is nearly finished as is the site behind Doe's. On balance it would appear at this stage that all this development has been an improvement to the village and, so far, the worries about congestion and lack of parking do not seem to be a problem.

Congestion has been a problem outside the school and the part of Town Lane running down to the bottom of Stoopers Hill. In response to complaints about these areas the District Council carried out road improvements on the Stoopers Hill section. This markedly improved traffic flow. The Council then installed yellow lines. The yellow lines have not been received with enthusiasm. They did little to stop the complaining, with opinion divided as to whether they did any good. The Parish Council is currently consulting with the authorities to make adjustments. We are also looking at providing more parking for the residents that live along that stretch of road.

Finally this time last year the Recreation Ground Trust had poured footings for the new pavilion. In the past year they have put up a steel frame and are currently working on the floor. They are still in the process of registering the playground in their name.

Richard Bott