

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

PARISH COUNCIL

- Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen -
2017 – 18 has been a good year for Little Leigh and our Parish Council, I believe. We have had a successful social programme, made various improvements to the Village Hall and its facilities and seen progress on a number of other initiatives.
- Many thanks for this are due to:
 - Councillor King, for his work as Vice-Chairman, clarification of our requirements regarding data protection and maintenance of our website
 - Councillors Beecroft and King for their tenacious efforts to improve the availability of high-speed broadband services
 - Councillor Jones – ably supported by Cllrs. Williamson, Tomlinson and Kirkland – for delivering the programme of social events
 - Councillor Kirkland, for very energetically launching the anti-litter initiative
 - And special thanks to our Clerk, Ann, for all her hard work these last twelve months.
- Our thanks are also due to Lesley Lawless, who edits Grapevine
- And now some of the highlights:
- The planters have been maintained by Mr and Mrs Cormick and look splendid. Plants and bulbs have been purchased by the parish council
- The speed limit on the A533 between Shutley Lane and Hole House Lane has been lowered and 20mph speed limits around the school and some other roads are planned for Autumn 2018
- Verge marker posts have been installed at various locations to discourage parking on the verges.
- Several social events have been held including carols around the tree, the May Queen event, a family fun day, a pumpkin party, a golden oldies film and lunch, a

spring walk, a quiz evening and the village show and the dog show. This year's show will be held on 8 September.

- A beacon will be lit on 11 November to commemorate the end of WW1.
- Litter picks have been arranged and several roads have been adopted by volunteers. The school has been involved in a poster competition and regular litter picks.
- Parish councillors have begun to survey potholes systematically in the parish and report them to CWAC Highways.
- The vegetation at the base of the hedge on the footpath to Barnton has been removed after months of campaigning.
- The Parish Council has commented on the planning applications received by CWAC.
- Ward boundaries have been reviewed and we remain in an enlarged Marbury Ward.
- We continue to push for a fibre broadband upgrade and understand this is imminent. Some area will receive fibre to premises whereas others are being considered for improvements by Connecting Cheshire. Two councillors have complained to BT, Ofcom, Connecting Cheshire and the MP about the poor service from BT.
- The financial position of the Council has continued to be healthy through the last twelve months. The formal financial documentation was presented at our Finances meeting on 19th April and agreed by the Council.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

- Thanks to volunteers from Engie in Winsford a new garden has been formed in front of the village hall and we owe thanks to Sue Griffiths who planned it and who has been maintaining it. We had a stunning display of daffodils this spring and further planting is planned.
- We have new lower railings so people get a better view of the space in front of the hall instead of rusting old metal railings.

- We have bought a small microwave oven for the kitchen and estimates have been obtained for modernising the electrics.
 - We have purchased new tables, kitchen shelving and a tea urn for the hall.
 - A new cupboard has been placed in the meeting room to store all our new crockery and cutlery which are now more accessible.
 - Bookings have been strong and the village hall made a profit in the year ending February 2018.
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- Finally, I would like to thank those who are taking on roles on the Council and the subcommittees from tonight and I know, with your efforts we can look forward to another good year for the parish.