IDE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 16TH MAY 2012

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

20ll/2012

It is a requirement, under the Local Government Act 1972, that a Parish Meeting be held annually. Where there is also a Parish Council it falls to the Chairman, or other members of that body, to call the meeting. Thus, although it is an entirely separate meeting from Parish Council meetings, inevitably in practise there is a link between the two. It follows that my report will be based primarily upon the discussions and work of the Parish Council.

Over the past year we have had to help make decisions which were controversial, and which may, in some cases, have been unpopular but they were decisions that were unavoidable. Overall, though, I feel It has been a very productive year for the parish council.

Sam Young was appointed as the Parish Clerk and has settled in very well. We were also joined on the council by Sally Cook and Peter Pattison which brings us up to the full quota.

Planning Applications – In 2011/2012 the Planning Sub-committee has received various applications from residents in Ide. The committee has submitted their comments in order to try and maintain the character of the village. Unfortunately Teignbridge District Council does not always take these comments on board.

Our major concern this year has been the effect that the erected School MUGA has had on the Village Allotments. Unfortunately, a lot of disruption has occurred for the allotment holders because this transformation has taken up a large proportion of the allotment site. Vice-Chairman, Nick Bradley, has put in a vast amount of work by liaising with them and had many meetings with Mark Thomas, the allotment holders’ Chairman, to come to an agreeable conclusion. The parish council would like to thank the allotment holders for their patience during these difficult circumstances of change. At the present time Nick is still in talks with the Church Commissioners regarding leasing Weir Meadow as a new allotment site. I, personally, would like to thank Nick Bradley for all his hard work during these long discussions.

Because the village Bus Shelter is in disrepair it was decided to replace it with a similar wooden one and planning permission from Teignbridge District Council was sought. Now we have recently received this planning permission for the replacement, funding will be sourced. Thanks to Peter for his tenacity in dealing with the planners.

During this year Ide has been surveyed for housing needs by Teignbridge District Council and we await the outcome of this. Though available land will always be a problem we need to find ways to help young people remain in their community.

We have achieved many things in the last 12 months which have improved the look of the village.

Coronation Gardens is to be looked after by Forget-me-Not Garden Services so this will keep them tidy and presentable. The Council would like to thank Jackie Chadwick and her helpers for their hard work in maintaining them and for her continuing interest in the appearance of these gardens.

The Memorial Cross has been cleaned which has enhanced the entry into the village. I am sure you will agree this was overdue and feel it is important we keep it in good condition as a reminder of the men of Ide who sacrificed their lives for our country.

The benches within the village were looking shabby and have been repaired and painted.

We are keeping up the vigilant task of making sure hedges are kept trimmed back, footpaths are cleared to provide easy access, bins are emptied regularly, the cemetery is kept clean and tidy, and generally smartening up the village where necessary.

I am glad to report that the Ide Village website has now been updated to include parish council reports thanks to Louise and Sarah who have done a brilliant job. This site enables anyone, anywhere to be updated on information about Ide Village and its latest events and that can only be a good thing.

As Ide Village Shop and Post Office is re-siting to Fore Street we are now looking into car parking facilities in its vicinity, but with land at a premium, we are still looking for a solution.

The parish council still continues to support the community shop which is important to the village and surrounding area and therefore will be making a £5000 donation towards the permanent re-siting of this establishment.

As the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations are approaching we have purchased commemorative mugs for the school children as well as children residing in the village. These will be presented to the children during school time on Friday, 1st June.

I am sure we will have many more issues to discuss in the next 12 months to keep all of us busy.

Of course the parish council cannot run smoothly without the councillors who give up their free time and I would like to thank you all very much for your support of me as chairman over the last year.

Lastly, we must thank councillors Alan Connett, Kevin Lake and John Goodey for their advice and much appreciated financial contributions to this village and for making time to attend our meetings.

I am looking forward to another interesting year.

Barry Hookins Chairman of Ide Parish Council.