**Ide Parish Council**

Chairman’s Report for the year May 2016 – May 2017

Parish Annual Meeting 17 May 2017

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. My name is Nick Bradley. There is one agenda item, my report as Chairman of The Parish Council. I am happy to take questions at the end.

It will be followed by the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, when officers and subcommittees are elected by the members; and the clerk gives her finance report.

We then move to the scheduled Parish Council meeting for May, held in public.

I start with my report.

1. **Parish Council membership.** In September Louise Watson stepped down after ten years - a lively presence, she sat on the planning subcommittee, was tree and footpath warden, was instrumental in the setting up and the weekly checking of the defibrillator, and brought a considered view to meetings. In December we co-opted Rachel Herbert to replace Louise – so a formal welcome to Rachel. I’d like also to thank Alan Connett (County Councillor), and Kevin Lake and John Goodey ( District Councillors) for their assistance through the year, and their attendance at our PC meetings.

2. We have had **three village meetings**. One on 8 September, attended by 65 residents, to hear about and discuss development proposals at Pynes Farm by the Church Commissioners. The feedback was strongly positive in favour of the proposals, with some constructive comments about the number of houses and parking. Before the PC meeting on 18 January Charles Stanisland spoke to 35 residents about the benefits and risks of owning and running a community orchard. The feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of trying to acquire the Orchard. And on 8 May we debated designating Round Field as local green space in the Neighbourhood Plan, where the meeting voted 25-12 in favour of doing so.

3. **The Neighbourhood Plan** progressed fast during the year, with a public consultation exhibition on 11 February, putting six distinct policies before the village on car parking, sport and recreational areas, local green spaces, residential development, Pynes Farm and Weir Meadow. I’d like to thank Chris Bishop , the chairman of the steering group, and Peter Pattison for their work, devoting many hours and days to this project. In particular, the preparations for and writing up after the Feb 11 exhibition, but much, much more besides. They have been assisted on the steering group by Sue Cloke and Roger Luscombe , and our thanks also go to them. The headlines are that the Plan received strong support. During the year, the Church Commissioners agreed to reduce the indicative number of houses on Pynes Farm to ten, with increased parking spaces, and further consideration of surface drainage will also be needed. The Church Commissioners have formally agreed in principle to sell The Victorian Orchard and Weir Meadow to the PC for community use. It remains to negotiate detailed conditions and prices. We have made it clear that the PC is only able to discuss an agreed future price, as opposed to making an actual offer to buy, at this stage. The Church Commissioners understand that and are content to proceed on that basis.

4. We know from last year’s poll that the village does not want **Round Field** to become a Park and Ride; and, at the end of May last year, Devon County Council formally withdrew its planning application for a Park & Ride there. Following last week’s parish meeting, the NP steering group is pursuing proposals to strengthen the field’s protection by including it in the plan under the local green space policy. It is also looking at additional ways in the NP, as well as the LGS policy, of protecting Round Field from development. For the Plan overall, the next step is to prepare a “Pre –Submission” version to present to Teignbridge District Council for their formal comments.

5. **Weir Meadow and Victorian Orchard.** A working group has been formed, standing ready for when the time comes, to take forward plans for Weir Meadow as a sports field and recreational area, and Victorian Orchard as a community run orchard: Richard Cloke, Stuart Brooking, Mark Thomas, Rachel Thomas, Pete Bishop and myself. Our thanks to them in advance – for work that lies ahead!

6. **Day to day parish tasks.**  Lots of people do lots of specific jobs round the village, which individually may seem small unless you are the one who has to get on and do them. There’s the notice board in Coronation Gardens, which has been repaired and repainted; and which the clerk keeps in order. The notice board at the bus shelter, which Barry and Louise have kept up to date. The bus shelter was re-coated and varnished, arranged through Barry. The children’s Play Area between the school car park and the playing field was kitted out with new equipment, and new notices put up, master – minded by Barry, with funds raised at a Casino night organised by Angelique Nichols, Cheryl Haddy, Rachel Herbert, Sarah Cooke and Nicky Rice. And it’s a wild success. We bought football goals to go on The Green in July when the playing field became unavailable – again organised by Barry. And guess who looks after the car park, and has got quotes for its repair, and sorts out the sandbags in the container! Louise has checked the defibrillator every week – and we’ll need someone else to do that soonish.

7. Kirsty House has been contracted to keep the Coronation Gardens and the green borders of the car park in good order; while Peter Pattison and others helped with fruit tree pruning there. Stuart and Bridget Brooking , with Jack Frost and Clare Hannaford, organised by Louise Watson, installed wooden planters either side of the entrance to the village. Pete Bishop got a sign saying High Street made, and fixed it to the wall next to the bus shelter, for the benefit of artics mainly. Barry and Pete arranged with a villager from Select Signs to make and fit a No Through Road sign at the entrance to The Green and The Hams.

8. Pete Bishop organised bunting and overhead signs for the day the cycling Tour of Britain came through Ide. Thankyou to all these people for their contributions.

9. **The village website i**s now an important part of village life and communication. Thankyou to Andy Swain for his work maintaining and keeping it up to date.

10. The Parish Council has a duty to run the **cemetery and the allotments**. Thankyou to Sarah Tiley who has taken on the cemetery, and, with great help from Rose, has reviewed the plot allocations and status, and simplified and reformed the scale of fees for burials. Thanks too to Brenda and Matthew Spivey for putting out the cemetery wheelie bins on a Thursday.

Because the NP has created so much work for Chris Bishop, I took back the job of the allotments. We have agreed a new annual rent for the lease for another six years with Devon County. We have one new allotment holder this year; and a waiting list of two names. We are waiting to hear who will be chair of the allotment holders association now that Mark Thomas has given up his holding.

11. Thank you to Barry and Rachel for taking on liaison with **Ide School.** For reasons which were sound, but unpopular, the school governors decided last June to stop public access to the school playing field at any time. The parish council has offered to discuss possible arrangements which might allow for at least partial access for children out of school hours and in the holidays, and to provide insurance cover, but at the present time the school is not in a position to consider it.

We have also received comments from the village that the MUGA is not being made available to residents as was envisaged when it was funded and built. Barry and Rachel are in discussion with the school at ways of overcoming the main hurdles, which currently are a system of booking, supervision on site and payment of a fee.

12. We have a duty to run a **Planning Sub Committee**. Pete Bishop, who is also vice chairman of the council, has taken on chairing this group, with Sarah Tiley and Barry Hookins as members, supported by the clerk. Pete has produced fresh standing orders for the committee, which now meets in public in the Hub of the Congregational Church, once a month.

13. **Ide Times** is our brilliant independent village magazine. This seems a good moment to thank Ann Boyce and Brenda Spivey for their work as editors, and the team of distributors, on behalf of the village.

14. The council has given money to the **Village Hall** development group, and is represented on that team by John Smart and Rachel Herbert. Whilst not formally part of the Parish Council, the village hall group has close common cause; and in particular we should thank Penny Smith, who as you will know is recovering from serious illness at present; Ian Campbell, Brenda Spivey and David Williams for their work on the project to renovate this hall.

15. And on that topic, a special thank you to **Carol Whitehart**, on behalf of us and the whole village, for being there to hold the key and take bookings for the hall. She never lets us down, never gets it wrong, and is always always smiling.

16. The council is in sound **financial** shape, spending what it receives and no more; receiving an annual precept of £6,000, to be increased this year by 2%; and still has money in reserve, hundreds not thousands, for village groups to apply for. For ten years Simon Cain, and his firm, have acted without fee as the council’s external auditor. He has given us notice that this will be the last year he will audit our accounts. So our thanks to Simon.

17. I reserve, however, our special thanks for **Rose Saunders,** the council’s indefatigable and wonderful clerk. Rose will be stepping down in October, after serving for five years, and she will be a seriously hard act to follow. Involved in every aspect and detail of the council’s work, keeping ahead of the timetables for agendas, notices and minutes, fielding enquiries from residents, and, what many clerks find the hardest job, being in charge of the money and accounts, she has taken it all on, and done it to the letter, fast and with tact. Thank you Rose.

18. That is the end of my report.

Nick Bradley