

125th Combs Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman Report

Monday 14th May 2018 7pm

This past year has been yet another full challenging year within the Parish Council. I must thank all the councillors for their support and work and time they have given throughout the year. Dealing with their roles within the Parish Council which helps not only my job as Chairman but also other members. This last year has seen the departure of our clerk Sarah Meech and with our new clerk Tony Bamber taking on the position who I must thank enormously for getting up to speed with the position and learning how to keep the councillors on the right track.

This year we have managed to upgrade a number of our street lights to LED lighting which is saving money on running costs. These new lamps will be more reliable and should give us many years of service.

The cemetery is now looking well managed and is causing us less issues as we have now got on top of the maintenance including enforcing the rules and regulations. I would personally like to thank David Stephenson-Rowe and Sue Raynard for their work involving the cemetery. The grass cutting has been undertaken by David Windle of Tannery Road and on submitted tenders we have decided to ask David to also cut the grass and maintain St Mary's churchyard as well.

Combs Parish Council would like to provide a lasting memorial to the fallen of the two world wars, This being the 100th year of the end of WW1 will be marked by an event on Sunday 11th November at 7pm. The Parish Council have applied to erect a beacon within the grounds of the cemetery. This will be lit on that evening as will many more around the country to remember the fallen.

We continue to notice the lack of funds that Suffolk Highways have for road maintenance and the deterioration of the minor roads of Mill Lane and Jacks Lane. With a number of pot holes in our roads around the village poorly repaired when done so.

Our new councillor Chris Toddhunter has thrown himself fully into the position and has provided us with a knowledgeable background dealing with the new rules and legal requirements of the new Data Protection Act and has also been able to study the consultation documents that we are increasingly getting from MSDC.

Planning is always a very time consuming part of our meetings and with the expansion of Stowmarket pushing further to our Parish Boundary, being of great concern to us, with little thought of what seems, on the infrastructure of roads, cycle ways and public transport. This can only cause major issues for our main road into Combs Ford and Stowmarket.

Combs Fete continues to strive with increasing numbers attending and after the 10th fete a new committee has been formed to take this forward. The Parish Council continues to support the fete .

A big thank you to our Suffolk County Councillor Anne Whybrow for her support over the year and a link with the various departments. I also must thank David Whybrow our MSDC councillor for his hard work and support he gives our Parish and a big thank you for the kind donation towards the WW1 beacon from his funds.

It is with sadness that David Stephenson-Rowe has decided to resign from the Parish Council. I would like to personally thank him for all his commitment and hard work he has given the council and his views on items concerning the village.

Stuart Scarff
Combs Parish Chariman

