

## **RIPPINGALE PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

*I am pleased to deliver the Parish Council Annual Report. It has definitely been a busy year as usual and I would like to record my gratitude for the admirable efforts of the Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our casual workman and the many Villagers who undertook services, met issues and pushed initiatives forward. Particular mention is made of Julie Parry, who retired from the Parish Council in February this year. She was a keen and diligent Member who achieved much.*

*Turning to Finance. The Parish Council’s finances remain on a sure footing and we undertake to see that a viable contingency is maintained to counter unanticipated circumstances. Control of the accounts is correctly undertaken by the Council and through internal and external Auditors. We have succeeded in keeping the Precept at last year’s level. We have worked, with donations from others, in progressing a number of projects, which I will talk about.*

*We continue, albeit at a measured pace, with our project to improve the provision of play equipment on the Jubilee Playing Field. We have received some promises of funding for example from SKDC but these are conditional on other sources of income being found; I am hopeful that these will materialise in the coming months. Some other additional funding will be through the Parish Council’s budget, Tesco and the Beerfest, who have generously donated a further £1,000. In the mean time we will refurbish the present equipment to ensure it can be used safely; this commenced with the necessary cutting back of the southern boundary hedge line.*

*Another project, which should be completed in May, is the erection of a set of 4 new lampposts in the Churchyard, which will replace a single unserviceable one. This has been funded through sponsorship and project managed by the Parish Council. I thank the sponsors; the appearance of the Churchyard will be enhanced by this initiative.*

*The Parish Council is now responsible for the majority of grass cutting of the public areas in the village, which we have to meet though our budget. We have striven to do this cost effectively by competitively tendering to engage an outside contractor. We will do the same for hedge cutting later in the year. As we endeavour to keep our village as presentable as possible, I must thank the many residents who are cutting grassed areas outside their properties. Other villagers I know make additional contributions to Village life but particular mention must also be made of John Tyler who has refurbished road signs throughout the Parish, assisted in cutting back trees in the Churchyard, helped erect swift boxes and varnished the Parish Council noticeboard.*

*Effective Communication is essential to the life of the Village and we have been well served through our Newsletter and the Village Website. Mike Bronze was principal editor for part of the year and Jamie Petch has now taken over as the sole editor. Many thanks for the splendid job they carried out, along with their delivery agents, to make sure this important media aspect continues to inform the Village. Similarly no organisation, community or body can function positively without a website and this year has seen Helen Martin administering the Village Website with skill and much commitment. Great thanks to her.*

*I must also recognise Derek Diess for capably running the Hospital Car Service which assists many villagers. Credit is also due to the RGAG for aiding us in conscientiously administering the allotments, which are so well-used. The Parish Council is also glad to contribute towards the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, as we are towards the Feast Committee work; this is a somewhat unique organisation which gives our village many positive events.*

*All these Villagers' actions display a beneficial community outlook. Finally, we look ahead to another interesting and rewarding year to support the Village continuing as an active, contented community.*

*Chairman, Cllr. Chris Charlton*