

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT GREAT COXWELL PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2018

This is the chair's update on Parish Council matters for the last year. We continue to meet every other month and sometimes in between if needed. It has been a very busy year again, mainly with planning but also with regular issues:

PLANNING has dominated the agenda. We have considered and commented on a number of developments between us and Faringdon. We continue to chase finalised and agreed conditions and S106 monies, on the two major developments in the parish Fernham Fields and the Steeds. Boundary change between us and Faringdon is back on the cards and a review is being undertaken by the District Council.

PARK – the Parish Council manage the Park. It is inspected regularly and a ROSPA safety report is carried out once a year. Generally the park is in good shape but there are large repairs and equipment replacements needed in the near future. The TEAS and Artweeks have provided all the funds for the day-to-day maintenance.

READING ROOM – has been well used this year, mainly by the WI, the Church, the Parish Council, the Coffee mornings and the TEAS. The Reading room is one of the hearts of the community here. It is a well-loved space and I thank all those who help support it. Jo King has run the bookings and management of the room for many years and done a brilliant job. She hands over to Karen Grewal who we welcome to the roll. The Councillors are the trustees of the Parish Reading Room. We agree to make up any deficit in it's finances. We hold regular separate Parish Room meetings.

ALLOTMENTS - Owned and managed by Mandy Burns. The allotments are looking good and all fully utilised.

VERGES AND FOOTPATHS – The Parish Council have taken over the mowing of village verges from Oxfordshire County Council. This will enable us to have it cut when and how we want.

We are pursuing upgrading the footpath behind the stables. The undergrowth along the paths has been heavily cutback. We are looking to S106 money to cover the cost of the final work.

VILLAGE WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER – the website is well used and popular. Peter Gale has handed over it's running to Gavin Anderson. Thank you to both of them for their support in keeping this project relevant and up to date. The newsletter is distributed by email and goes out most Fridays depending on whether there is anything new to go in it or not.

BOOK EXCHANGE – thank you to Ian Mason for running this. It is a great use of the old phone box.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – We go to the local meeting chaired by Andi Cunningham and attended by Thames Valley Police. These meetings are very well attended and very effective.

GREAT COXWELL COMMUNITY PLAN TEAM –this group exists to update the Neighbourhood Plan in the next year.

WAR MEMORIAL – the trees surrounding it had outgrown their position and have been removed. A new hedge will be planted to replace it.

DEFIBRULATOR – We hope to have it up and running soon.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE – there have been some questions asked about who is responsible for the St Giles Churchyard maintenance. We had it confirmed by the District Council that they are responsible for the churchyard and they will continue to maintain it.

FINANCE – thank you to Ian Mason for keeping our finances in very good order. We have a sound working balance in all the bank accounts

CLERK – Jo King deserves huge thanks for all her work keeping the council organised, on time, minuted and in order. It is many hours of work a week and we are very grateful to her.

COMMUNITY – I thank the parish for their support and interest in council business. We are here to represent you and we welcome all your questions and opinions. Our community are very generous in supporting village amenities especially the park and the reading room. The council are hugely helped by our district councillors Elaine Ware and Simon Howell, as well as our county Councillor Judy Heathcoat, and I wish to express our gratitude to them. I also want to thank all your parish councillors who put in many hours of unpaid work to get things done for the village. You are a great team – thank you.