

This is the **Parish Council Chairman's** Report 2016/17 for the Annual Parish Meeting 13/3/17

I would like to, as ever, start this report by thanking my fellow councillors (Lorna Joy, Joanne Eastwood, John Hockley, Mike Mortimer, Clair Flynn) for all their contributions, help and support over the year. I also thank Mary Taylor and Brian Coxall for their service to the village prior to stepping down.

The smooth workings of the Parish Council are as ever ensured through the excellent work of our ever pivotal Parish Clerk (Ellen Sayer) for ensuring that everything has run so smoothly over the past year; particularly in terms of ensuring that the never-ending streams of correspondence and emails are actioned and that our finances remain in excellent order.

The Parish Council has once again carried out its 'usual' duties over the year employing contractors to ensure that the Recreational Field, Wildlife Area, Children's Play Area and Churchyard are kept in good order.

Key information relevant to the village continues to be provided by the village paper-based newsletter 'Akeley News' as well as through the village website and the independent community forum 'Akeley News and Views'.

We have now taken on the responsibilities for grass cutting throughout the village as part of devolved services being decentralised by the County Council. I am pleased to say the initial workings of our contractors have been smooth and thank the efforts of all to ensure this transition.

A major milestone of the year has been the arrival of the superfast broadband with Akeley being one of the few communities nationally to have the opportunity for fibre to the premises and speeds of over 200Mb. I know this is of great benefit to the many residents who work from home and many of their children who now are downloading with a smile! It's been a long, long journey and there are still a few challenged premises which are being reported on to the Local Area Forum shortly; I am confident these will also be enabled but frustrated at the further delays for these minority of residents.

We continue to await the further-delayed Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VALP) and we cautiously watch neighbouring planning applications on the north-eastern edges of Buckingham and Maids Moreton as well as ones in the village itself.

I would like to once again put on record our thanks for the support of our County and District Councillor Warren Whyte and the support of the Local Area Forum (LAF)

In conclusion, Mary Taylor recently stepped down as councillor during the year and we now have approval to co-opt a replacement so anyone in the audience tonight, or reading this after the meeting, please feel free to step forward and help guide the evolution of Akeley

Terry Cavender, Chairman, Akeley Parish Council