

## **Annual Report by Chairman of Long Sutton Parish Council, Mr R W Fry**

The Parish Council has for most of the past year operated with a full number of Councillors, with two resignations, one co-opted member and a recent vacancy, yet to be filled. We also have a new District Councillor.

We continue to assess our procedures and the way we operate and one improvement to have been made has seen the Council switch Banks to allow us to use online banking. The Council are also presently regularising the tenancy agreements of the Allotment holders to simplify those arrangements.

Following the Parish Council nominating the Village Stores as a Community Asset, the District Council has now placed it on their register, which should help to ensure the village continues to have this vital facility.

The Council arranged a public meeting with Wessex Water to address the ongoing problem throughout the village of the foul drainage system. For their part Wessex Water are now well aware that there is a serious problem and have promised to undertake remedial action, but the Council will, I am sure, be continually assessing progress until there is a satisfactory conclusion.

A further public meeting was called to enable the Council to assess the views of the Parishioners in order to update the Parish Plan, which was compiled nearly 10 years ago.

There have been numerous planning applications to come before the Council and the Planning Working Group have provided further scrutiny for the Council before our decisions/observations are submitted to the District Council. A very useful meeting with a Planning Officer was recently held.

The Village Hall & Recreation Ground is a facility well used by many groups and clubs and the Village Hall Committee ensure that it is maintained in very good order. The Committee are presently investigating other means of generating extra funds to further improve the facilities. A planned formal Lease to the Cricket Club should allow them to access grants and loans.

A very generous grant from the Lottery Fund, assisted by Community Heartbeat has enabled the provision of a defibrillator at the Village Hall and also one situated in the old telephone kiosk at Knole; we are fortunate to now have two such vital pieces of equipment within our village.

We are grateful to the Parish Lengthsman, who continues to maintain the village to such a high standard and is contracted for another year.

Work is planned for the lower end of the Village Green in order to safeguard that area from erosion.

A continuing matter of concern within the Parish is that of speeding traffic – not only on the Langport Road but throughout the village. The Council will explore all possible measures to tackle this problem but it is not proving easy to resolve.

In common with other local areas, the Parish has suffered from the theft of farm equipment and livestock, as well as break-ins of outbuildings and sheds. Also of concern is the increase of vandalism – particularly around the Village Hall/Recreation Ground area. The Police have been alerted. A letter has also been sent to the Chief Constable of Avon & Somerset Constabulary to express this Council's concern at what appears to be a reduced Police presence within the Parish.

I close by thanking all my fellow Councillors, the County and District Councillors and the Parish Clerk for all their contributions over the past year.