

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

As in the past, planning and the state of the parish's roads has, as usual, been the major preoccupation of the Parish Council.

Over the past year the Parish Council has had to call Special Parish Meetings/Parish Council Meetings to deal with several contentious planning applications. One at Eastham Grange where the original application was withdrawn; a new application was submitted where suggestions made by the planning authority met with the Parish Council's approval. This is one of many applications in the parish still awaiting a final decision.

One application, known as The Oak Trees, Highwood, was reported on in my report this time last year. It has still not been resolved. The problem is that the matter has become embroiled in legal proceedings. It is not contested that the mobile bungalow should be removed and Mr Annetts has pleaded guilty to not complying with the order but a Judge has given him time to negotiate with MHDC planning authority. A new application has now been submitted using recently introduced regulations (Using: Class C3) that allows the conversion of existing farm buildings into dwellings. This new application has been strongly opposed by the Parish Council and local residents and refused by MHDC. This decision that has now gone to appeal and will hopefully be successfully resolved in the Parishes favour in September 2015.

The long standing problem of foul water that has been running down Rhyse Lane, by Robins End, is at last showing signs of being dealt with. The two Robins End cottages have installed new septic tanks and their soak away water may be allowed into the road drainage system. The Clerk attended a site meeting, arranged by County Council Ken Pollock, with WCC officials. Following that meeting the blocked pipe connection to the road drainage system has now been cleared. There is still some water (a spring?) getting onto the road on the Robins End house side. The appalling state of the road due to these longstanding problems is yet to be dealt with. Our County Councillor has asked for resurfacing work to be undertaken when the drainage issues are fully resolved.

A "Lifebox" defibrillator machine has been purchased with the help of a grant from The British Heart Foundation and our County Councillor. It is fitted, with the permission of the Memorial Hall's Management Committee, on the front of the Hall. We are grateful to Councillor Paul Arnold for dealing with the fitting of the machine and connecting it to the hall's electricity supply completely free of charge

Dr Ken Pollock our County Councillor has been very helpful with various problems, especially Rhyse Lane and kept us well informed and up to date at our council meetings. We congratulate District Councillor Gill Farmer on her re-election on May 7<sup>th</sup> – she continues to give quick responses to any requests for assistance and is supportive of the council on planning matters.

All Parish Councillors stood for re-election this year with no other candidates standing against them. I will not be offering myself for election as chairman this year and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work and support over the past years. I would like to thank Michael Adams who oversees minor planning applications in consultation with other Councillors and the Clerk. Finally a very sincere thank you to Sue Burrows, our Clerk, for her efficient grip on the council's proceedings and her understanding of the ever altering regulations that the council has to contend with.

**John Inge - Chairman of Eastham Parish Council**

**PS – Clerk would like to thank John for his Chairmanship over the years, we have not always agreed but we have never fallen out, as it should be. Thank you John for your support over the last 9+ years, yes it is that long. Sue**