

## Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

### Chairman's Report May 2017

First of all I would like to thank a number of people.

- All my fellow councillors, for their commitment throughout the year.
- Terry Clements our County Councillor. (Now Mayor)
- Sara Mildmay-White our Borough Councillor.
- Stanningfield Community Association

I will mention some individuals again as we progress through this Report but would like it noted that those already mentioned have played a part in helping us make progress this year.

We said goodbye to our Clerk Paul Maclachlan during the year and I would like to place on record my and the Councils thanks for the sterling work he carried out for us.

Amanda Hinde of course joined us following Paul's departure and has very quickly established herself in the role and has made a strong contribution over the last few months. Welcome and thank you Amanda. I would also thank Tony for working with Amanda on the accounts.

Last, but by no means least, I'd like to thank those members of the public who come along to our PC meetings. They are not always exciting although I suspect they are sometimes unintentionally entertaining. Thank you for your support.

### Achievements

We have continued our policy over the last year of raising money outside our precept for additional projects and have now raised over a four-year period nearly £40,000 from various sources including The Havebury Housing Partnership, Stanningfield Community Association, Village Society, Private donations, County and Borough Councils Locality Budgets/Grant Initiatives and local Fund Raising Events. Again, we say a thank you to these people and organisations

### Projects completed in the last twelve months

#### Car Park

The Village Hall Car Park and wooded area has undergone an extensive redevelopment this year, with many more parking spaces created and lighting added for convenience and safety, the brambles have been removed from in front of the wooded area and a new grassed section added to the field.

Thanks go to Barry Colson for all his work, and for only charging for materials

I would also thank **Colin, Clive,** and **Mark** for their input

#### Village Hall Serving Hatch

A new serving hatch has been added to the Village Hall kitchen at the request of the SCA  
Thanks to **Clive** for working with me on this.

#### Play Area

This area on the Green at Stanningfield is undergoing renovations to ensure safety and enjoyment for our local Children. This work includes New Swing Seats, New Bushes for the swings and repairs to the Cold Pool safety surface

Thanks, on this project go **Colin and Julia**

#### Flooding

A project has been started this year following flooding in the Parish to understand how we can better prepare and control any future issues, this is still very much work in progress.

Thanks to **Mark** for taking this on

#### Speeding

Real action has been taken on this issue during the year with a full and detailed report being produced and submitted to Highways. We still await some real action back from Highways!!

Thanks go to **Mike and Andy** for their input.

### Other Items worthy of note

#### Grass Cutting

Our decision to award the Grass Cutting contract (one of our major expenses) has resulted in all our green areas being well cared for and a considerable financial saving to the Parish.

#### Allotments

We now have more allotments being used than ever, **Graham Clampin** has done a great job of allocating and marking out the various plots for which we thank him.

#### Foot paths

There have been a couple of issues this year around Foot and Bridle paths with one being completely resolved and the other now with the County Council for a decision.

### Communication

We have continued to produce Village Matters during the year, keeping everyone in the Parish up-dated on events, projects, and potential changes.

Thanks to **Clive** for this.

Our Website continues to be up-dated with **Mark** now taking responsibility for this resource.

### Neighbourhood Watch

I would also like to thank **Andy** for his efforts with NW and for trying to make sense out of the situation, unfortunately this programme now seems not to be a Police priority.

### Vandalism

Unfortunately, I must report that for the second time a panel in the Bus Shelter has been damaged to the point where it will need replacing. The cost to the Parish of this mindless

action is approx. £200. I want to be very clear that where possible the Council will pursue those responsible for payment and or prosecute for criminal damage.

### **Village Events**

This year has seen several very well attended events, this I believe is due to the cooperation that now exists between the various Parish organisations and businesses.

- The Stanningfield Community Association Fete was the most successful ever.
- Village BBQ & Quiz was attended by 40 plus people
- Fun on the Green was held last July and attended by over one hundred people
- A Christmas Tree was erected in the Centre of Stanningfield for the first time ever
- "The Ghosts of Mr Dickens" play held at the Village Hall was attended by 70 people

We say a very special thanks to Pauline and John from the Red House Pub, who are always ready to help and support these events and to Richard and Ruth Duchesne for supplying the Christmas Tree and erecting it, and of course to the members of St Nicholas Church for coming up with the idea.

### **The coming year**

We enter the year with a:-

- Full complement of Councillors.
- Healthy financial reserves
- Four planned social events for the Parish to enjoy
- A communication platform in place to keep everyone informed and engaged

We are very aware that we are spending public money and will continue to do this responsibly and prudently. Any money for extra projects will wherever be raised from outside sources.