**Standon Parish Council Chairman’s Report – May 2018 to April 2019.**

Key Events and Actions:

Parish Council:

There were no changes to the composition of the Council during the year.

It was a year of consolidation, with a reappraisal of priorities and actions.

Individual councillors undertook responsibility to lead specific projects as part of the councils succession planning

We had an increase in members of the public attending the meetings on a regular basis throughout the year.

Thanks to everyone for their attendance and contribution.

Grants to local groups:

As in previous years grants were made to the following community organisations for 2019/20.

Village Hall – All Saints Church – St James Church – Standon First School – WI – Senior Citizens (Tuesday Club) – and the Toddler Group.

Again no application for funds for new start up activities in the Village Hall were received.

Litter Pick:

Our third organised litter pick was completed in June 2018 predominately in Cotes Heath.

Web Site:

The web site has an active role in hosting all relevant documentation relating the workings of the Parish Council, with links to other local organisations.

Highways:

Pot holes were less of an issue within the area, we again agreed to continue to report them leaving it to the processes put in place by the Council to get them prioritised and repaired.

Concern regarding the lack of Gulley cleaning throughout the Parish has been expressed, this to be treated as for potholes i.e. report and allow the processes in place to work. The parish council has agreed to fund the clearing of the grips on Weston Lane and Sandy Bank and specific gulley’s that present flooding issues.

A519 Speed limit

This was seen by the council as the most important issue to resolve and we worked closely with Councillor County Jeremy Pert to lobby the Highways department for a solution.

We prepared our case for a speed reduction based on government criteria and established a local petition and forwarded them to the highways department.

Following their rejection of our case, Sept 2018, a letter was forwarded to the Highways CEO, repeating our case and insisting that we were treated in the same manner as all the surrounding villages on both the A519 and A51

Finally in January 2019 we were informed that the Highways were proposing a 40mph speed restriction from Moorfields to south of Nelson Crescent.

We await completion of the consultation process and hopefully the new speed limit will be in place before year end.

Village Pond Area:

We again paid for the regular ground maintenance throughout the year.

In addition there were substantial improvement actions in line with the Parish Council plan to enhance the area, these included:

* Landscaping and creation of a second pool with feed and overflow to maintain the water level.
* Erection of fencing around the lower border of the second pool as a safety feature.

Village Signs:

The first three new style signs have now been installed in Standon, as these were seen to be in the worst condition. The signs are of gateway design and include the words Thank you for driving carefully.

Armistice Beacon.

The PC held an Armistice Beacon ceremony in line with similar nation events. Some 60 people attended the lighting of the Beacon on land on the Rocks. Many thanks to Caroline and Philip Timmis, Will Jervis, All Saints PCC, the bell striker and the WI who all contributed to the event.

Standon Hall:

Standon Hall is yet again under new ownership, much has been declared on social media as to the intent of the new owners but no formal planning application or proposals have been submitted. We await with interest.

Main Projects being under taken by the PC over the next three years:

In order to share the work load and give individuals responsibility other than just attending meetings, each project has a leader/sponsor.

* Village pool area – continue with further tree surgery and landscaping and plant of new hedging, bulbs and other features. – P Banks/A Williams
* Village Signs – continue to replacing/upgrading/ to include reference to careful driving – S Mather
* Styles and Public Footpaths – several of our styles have been repaired/replaced by volunteers guide by our local co-ordinator Bill Twigg. – P Jones.
* Litter pick 2019 – A Williams/J Jones
* We will continue to follow up on the speed limit consultation process and continue to lobby for no overtaking in the vicinity of the Station road junction.
* Speed through our Villages remains a major concern. We have explored the use of a flashing speed sign taken up by other Villages, this has a high cost and comes with the logistic issues of moving the signs from location to location. Currently we are not proposing to follow this route but, to await the outcome of improved technology. There has been several visits by the police speed camera van on Mill Lane and Station road throughout the year.