

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD PARISH COUNCIL 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening to you all. Thank you to everyone for giving up your evening to be here for the AGM of the Parish Council for 2016. Please do feel free to raise any questions that you may have tonight.

Last year I was able to warmly welcome Lorraine Sherlock and Neil Blake as new members of the Parish Council. They have both worked very hard for us and are a great asset to our community. Along with, of course, ALL of our Parish Councillors. As your Chairman, I could not do my job without such fantastic support and my personal thanks go to all of you for your sterling work and for your diligence and commitment to the parishioners of South Newton and Stoford.

Let me now review and update you on matters from last year.

We are making good progress with our fund raising efforts for the new extension. The Village Hall, Football Club and Cricket Club are all holding events to work towards this. We are always looking into various grants and fund raising, including the Football Association. We were able to secure a grant of £20,000.00 from the Trustees administering the financial asset from the sale of Wilton School. Altogether, a grand total of £35,000.00 has been raised in the last year.

I shall mention again, that we have a clothes bin for recycling which helps fund the Air Ambulance. We are ever mindful of this service given we all live near such a dangerous road.

Talking of which, we continually seek to try and alleviate the A36 problems and it has been interesting to hear of the thoughts relating to a proposed tunnel at Stonehenge which just might help a bit. Watch this space.

The C283 Stoford Bottom road continues to cause us all grief. It is being used by many more drivers every day and increasingly by HGV's following their Sat Navs. We are hopeful of improvements as the road is in a sorry state and with luck, a weight restriction may be secured.

Our local Police Officers do a great job for us and react very quickly if any crime is happening locally. My thanks to Pete Yung and his Team, PCSO's Jenny Moss and Nicola Clark.

We are lucky, that generally, crime is at a low level in the villages. However, it is with great sadness that I report an event that took place on the day my dad died on Sunday 17th May last year.

Having JUST completed the Play Area at Vale View Road, and even before we were able to hold the Opening Event, the play equipment was vandalised in a mindless attack. Some of those responsible and their very upset parents, have written to me and offered their sincere apologies as well as offering cash to contribute towards repairing the damage. We have been fortunate in being able to repair all of the play equipment and the Opening Ceremony went ahead with our local children now able to play in a secure environment.

Events:

The Summer Fete

Held on Saturday 11th July we enjoyed sunny weather and another very successful day. The Dog Show has become a great favourite, drawing in our four legged friends and their owners from far and wide. The tea, coffee and cake stall had more cake and sweet treats than anyone could eat and the children's sport

aces were as competitive as any Olympics! There is a great feeling to the day and lots of stalls and events to enjoy.

This year, the date for our diaries is Saturday 9th July and please come along and enjoy the day.

The Football Club six-a-side tournament

With the Saturday being reserved for the ladies and Sunday for the men, this annual event is always a highlight of our year. The 18th and 19th June are the dates for this year, Sunday being Father's Day again. The Village Hall Committee will be providing the refreshments and food and any help you are able to offer will be very gratefully received. Once again a big thank you to everyone who gives up their time to make this a very successful occasion for everybody. Please attend if you can and support your local football club and village hall on a very enjoyable day for all.

Drawing to a close, I must mention our local Councillor Pete Edge, my grateful thanks to you and again, to all my fellow members of the Parish Council who turn up every month (come rain or shine) to try and make things just a little bit better for our community.

This concludes my report for this year. Thank you all for coming this evening and may I take any questions from the floor.

Derek Blake (Chairman).