Pyecombe Parish Council Annual Report 2018-2019

The recent local elections resulted in the Parish council being uncontested, although a change in the District Councillors, with congratulations to Colin Trumble being elected and my thanks for his assistance to the Parish Council in the past year. Also, my thanks to both John and Anthony for their help and support during their years in office.

Although not directly within our Parish, the threat from Mayfield Market Town continues in the wider District, as although not being policy in the Mid Sussex District Plan that was formally adopted last year, it has recently secured a Performance Planning Agreement with neighbouring Horsham District Council, and the idea of a large market town in acres of rural land could still be a possibility, with all the infrastructure problems that will occur county wide, besides, blighting a large rural area in Mid Sussex.

Planning in the village has continued to dominate issues in our parish, and we, as a council, have constructively put forward our observations to the South Downs National Park Authority, who are responsible for any final decision.

There were fourteen applications during the past year, twelve of which were approved and two refused. Some of the decisions, however, have left the Council sometimes bemused of the SDNP views, and we continue to make our views known.

The formal South Downs National Park Plan is expected to be fully adopted and in operation later this year. One particular application, a second for four houses in land off Church Lane, following the refusal for five houses on the same site, led to a Planning Committee Meeting in Midhurst earlier this year, which was then subsequently given permission, with conditions. An appeal has since been lodged by the applicant on the original application, and we are anxiously awaiting the outcome.

Parking in Old London Road has once again continued to be of concern to the Council, and Villagers alike, and despite a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) having been granted last year, we are still yet to see any real progress being made by West Sussex Highways, although assuredly promised, once in place, we hope this situation will improve, so that other areas can be addressed accordingly.

Joy Dennis has been our West Sussex County Councillor representative, and I take this opportunity to thank her for the help and support the Parish Council has received in the past year.

With the replacement wooden signpost now having been fully installed at the bottom of School Lane, two new replacements seating benches are expected to be in place in the coming months.

Both the Pyecombe Village Website and Village Newsletter, sponsored by the Parish Council, continue to keep residents informed, and my thanks to Dawn Langston, as Editor of the newsletter, for her valuable contribution.

Dawn has been our Parish Clerk throughout the year and her diligence and attitude in this role has shone through, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the Council, to thank her for her conscientious work and total dedication shown towards us all over the past year.

My thanks also, to my follow Councillors, in or voluntary role, for their contribution and assistance in the past year.

Your Parish Council meets on a regular basis, every other month, where meetings are held alternatively both here at Wayfield Park Farm Shop, and in Pyecombe Church, as a public meeting that remains open to all.

David Wilson.
Chairman Pyecombe Parish Council
14th May 2019.