**Chairman’s Report to Parish**

Looking back over the year the Parish Council has

* Purchased the land upon which the village hall sits. Purchasing this secures the future of the site for the village. Diane can give us an update on the village hall later.
* Finally the village speed gates have been installed by NCC Highways.
* Our village newsletter goes from strength to strength. We hope residents are appreciative of it.
* We have had the bus shelter, benches, notice board and on the village green cleaned.
* Donations have been given to the Recreation Ground for a new tea urn and new sign and to the Village Hall Working Group as start-up funding. It is worth informing you all again that the Parish Council has a grant awarding policy. We will consider applications for grants from voluntary groups and charitable organisations. Any funding must benefit the Parish or residents of the Parish. Please contact our Clerk.
* Bus Service. A recent safety audit by NCC does not, unfortunately support bus stops along the Lynn Road, and therefore, installing bus stops here will not be taken forward. NCC has said they will look at the level of service provision in and around the Wimbotsham area. They also cited access problems and concerns over realistic demand levels that warrant a high level of service into the village centre. So NCC has said they will work with the PC also to facilitate a level of service. But things move slowly, so we are not any further on restoring a better service to the village.
* The PC has responded to the planning application submitted by Albanwise, local land owners, for a 285 house development north east of Bridle Lane in Downham Market. This development if it went ahead, would be in Wimbotsham Parish, therefore we have been consulted and responded with a letter of objection.
* Finally - our forthcoming Community Picnic. This idea for a village event came from The Big Lunch idea; a type of street party gathering, where people sit down together, to get to know each other and share food together. Our theme if you like, is to celebrate Her Majesty’s 90th birthday. Many communities are holding similar events around the country over that weekend.
* Everyone is invited to the Community Picnic at 1pm on 11th June. We have a beautiful village green, not to just look at but to be used too. To get ready for the event we are running a bunting making session this Saturday in the VH; this will be fun and we will use the bunting to decorate the trees on the green on the 11th.
* We really have no idea of numbers attending, so please spread the word, and come along with rugs, chairs, tables, picnics and some food to share.
* There will be best crown competitions, a celebration cake with a 90year resident who will be cutting it. Then in the evening we will light the beacon at 9pm.
* Funding - £150 from Borough Council. The PC will match fund this amount.

Thank you to all the Parish Councillors for their commitment to their role and work they do to support the decisions the Council has to make.

Thank you too to our Clerk Pippa, who we value highly.

May 2016.