

This was my fourth and final year as Chairman. I would like to thank my Councillors for their continued support and hard work and I would especially like to thank our Parish Clerk, Denise, who has put together the necessary policies and keeps us to a tight budget. Due to our diligence this year, we have managed to increase funds in our savings account so it is looking much healthier than it was two years ago. We aim to continue working in this way to build our reserves to the required amount of one year's precept.

The Parish Council continued to keep the village green, the churchyard and the grass outside the Memorial Hall looking tidy by having regular grass cutting through six months of the year. We also used the expertise of the District Councils Tree Warden in providing free trees for the green and wherever they were needed as well as taking advice from our local tree surgeons to keep all of our trees in tip top condition. We have labelled the fruit trees in the community orchard so they are easily identifiable and are delighted that some of those trees are already bearing fruit. We have also tried to ensure that the public footpaths are kept clear of debris so are safe to use.

We are delighted that the village shop continues to be so well supported and is such a success.

We continued to ensure that the playground at Bramble End was safe to use and recently provided short footpaths to the gates as well as giving some of the equipment a face lift. The village sign on the green has been refurbished and repainted as well as being given a new post and we thank Georgina Gray for providing a replacement bench on the green in memory of her father.

We have contracted a local company to redesign and manage our website, which saves us a large amount of money.

Once a year, we invite local groups who have projects that they need financial assistance with, to apply for funding through the Parish Council's Small Grants scheme. This year, only one application was received by the closing date, but we were pleased to help the Alconbury Recreational Field Charity by giving a donation towards their fireworks. The display was spectacular and could be seen all over the village. We were also able to give donations towards the community bus run by HACT, Project 21 and a poppy wreath for the Royal British Legion.

We continued to work in the best interests of the village and all its residents, helping to make this a very pleasant village in which to live. The majority of the Councillors work full time, but still find time to offer their services for which I am very grateful.

Judith Aylott - Chairman