Annual Parish Meeting 2016
Chairman's report – Cheryl McGauley

Welcome everyone.

I have now completed my second year as Chairman of Woodbury Parish Council. Towards the end of the year we said goodbye to Tim Pattison and we are now actively seeking a new Parish Councillor for Exton.

During the year we saw the sad passing of former Councillor Reg Brown. Reg was a leading light in Woodbury and will be sadly missed.

We also said goodbye to our Clerk, Mandy and her assistant Annette.

These have now been replaced with two Clerks, sharing the work and working much reduced hours, making a big saving to Parish Council costs.

Tony Le Riche has been a Clerk at large and small Councils for over 20 years and has bags of knowledge and experience that he is bringing to Woodbury.

Leigh-Anne Kendall has loads of business experience and is hopefully here for the long-run by learning about Local Council work from Tony.

During the year the Parish Council has met on 11 occasions, the Planning Committee has met 8 times and other Committees have also met.

The Council has considered 95 planning applications including several where amended plans have been put in to take into account some of the Parish Council's objections.

The Neighbourhood Plan is moving along and you will hear more about this from Cllr John Pyne later.

EDDC is consulting again on the Villages section of the Local Plan and on a Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. We had two public meetings about the Villages section of the Local Plan and would like to thank all those who came along to express their views.

The Government is also consulting on their ideas on 'How to fix the broken housing market.' We have started to think about this and will talk about it a bit more at our meeting on 22nd May 2017. All of these could have implications for the Parish and so it is important that our views are well thought out and put forward.

A major scheme to improve the play area at Exton has been completed funded to a major extent by local fundraising in Exton itself. The next phase will be to improve the sports facilities in the Playing Field and much of the funding is already in place for this.

South West Water has nearly finished the new sewer works in Woodbury. I know the road closures have caused some frustration but it has only been for a short time and the results will be worth the trouble. They are also carrying out some works to improve collection of rainwater from the Village Hall and at the Toilets where there are problems.

The Handyman scheme run by Exmouth Town Council has finished and so the Parish Council is looking at ways of continuing this valuable work.

Flooding can still be a local problem and we hope that no one has to suffer from all the nasty things that this can bring. Cllr Jung has raised funds and has started work on developing Flood Resilience in the Parish. He is looking at a variety of ways of reducing the risk of flooding and providing equipment to protect homes in the areas at risk. He needs support for this work and needs a Team of volunteers in each area, who can turn out and offer help when needed.

Cllr Jung also organized the Great British Spring Clean in March. This was a great success across all three areas of the Parish.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for all their hard work throughout the year and all the Volunteers in each of our Villages, who give their time freely to help improve the area where we live.

There is always more to be done and there is always scope for any of you to offer any skills that you might have for the benefit of your community. Please speak to one of the Parish Councillors or call in to the Office to let the Clerk know what you might be able to do.