

Chairman's Report 2015/2016

I am pleased to be able to report to the Council what I believe has been another successful year for a small Parish Council in what has seen a fair amount of diverse activity.

The Parish year started with a new Parish Clerk. It is never easy to assume the reins from a long standing incumbent but I am delighted to say the transition, although not smooth, was successful and we are all delighted with our new Clerk.

At our first meeting of the year, in May last year, we took the decision to abandon our attempt at producing a Neighbourhood Plan. This as a result of general apathy, lack of interest and general support.

The Play Park scheme was initiated and Viridor approached for scheme funding. Also during May last year, Cadbury came to town and we were renamed for the day, twinning us with Bourneville and bringing a very generous cheque of £15,000 towards our Play Park.

In Tolpuddle, Hastoe Housing initiated a housing plan for much needed affordable houses and we are all delighted that these houses are now in the course of development.

Two months after the abandonment of the Neighbourhood Plan and probably as a result of unwelcome development planned for a site on the Blandford Road, a new Neighbourhood Plan steering group was formed under the Chairmanship of our new Councillor Janet Ranger with Ann Soderberg giving much needed expertise and guidance.

In July the proposed Play Park scheme was successful in obtaining a grant of £94,000 from Viridor. Congratulations for this must go to Rob Belbin and his team for this excellent achievement.

In Tolpuddle, there was yet another very successful Martyrs Festival bringing in the Public from far and wide. Once again very well organised, much enjoyed and I believe trouble free.

In August development plans for a small greenfield site was causing much consternation for local residents and despite the Council also objecting to this development the matter has yet to be finally decided.

Late in the year the old Puddletown First School resurfaced with development plans received from Landmark Estates. The scheme to convert the existing building to create 4 dwellings and to erect a new detached dwelling was approved with minor