**Chairman’s Report April 2016**

Good evening,

This is my update from the Parish Council for last year.

Following last year’s election first of all I would like to congratulate Sarah Butikofer on becoming our district councillor. Sarah is taking an active role in village activities including Speed Watch, fighting for better broadband etc. Sarah is often available at Connie’s cake sale on the first Saturday of most months and is in the discussing the possibility of holding surgeries for residents going forwards.

Also since last year’s meeting Janet Warner has been replace by Sarah Hayden. Sarah has been with us for five months now and is settling into her role as parish clerk. Attendances at PC meetings continue to be on the low side but just a reminder that there are 6 meetings a year held on the second Tuesday of every other month here in the village hall at 7-30pm and everybody is more than welcome to attend.

Just a nudge to say that for those of you with internet access that we have a website, aylmertonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk and also have a twitter account @AylmertonPC, please take a look at these to keep you up to date with everything going on with the council.

It is still impossible not to have noticed plenty of further changes to the village over the past year. The village pond committee have done a lot of initial works to the pond. A pathway has been created around the pond, barriers and a footbridge constructed. Bat boxes have been erected and 2 rustic benches have been constructed. Wildlife areas have been created and mountains of litter removed. Probably a good time to remind dog owners to clear up after their pets not only around the pond but throughout the village as a whole. Following a successful grant application matched by the PC a reed bed will be constructed in the autumn to restrict silt from washing into the pond from surface water on the road. Please speak to either Trevor or any councillors if you wish to help with any forthcoming works on the pond.

The parish council, village hall and Church are working well together with a proposal to discuss the purchase of a ride-on-mower following this meeting. It will be of benefit for the pond, church and playing field. We hope to continue these relationships moving forward and at this time both Greg and Steve as well as being councillors are on the village hall committee.

Planning wise, we have had several domestic applications none of which have been too contentious.

The proposed affordable housing project off The Street has been shelved however other possible sites have been identified and I will read an update on this in due course this evening

Highways and transportation this year has included our support to Felbrigg PC relating to a proposed roundabout at the junction on the A148.

If you have any issues relating to the state of the roads/verges in the parish please let us know and we will contact the relevant departments to get the problem rectified as quickly as possible.

We are regularly visited by the highway rangers to address any issues.

The police will not be holding mobile surgeries anymore however they will be available in Cromer.

Financially we are working to our budgets as well as contributing to local village projects and various charities. Our precept has risen this year the main reason for this being to set aside funds for improvements to access/egress at the war memorial, particularly regarding the steps.

Regarding the allotments, we have not formulated a revised tenancy agreement as yet however discussions are ongoing and in due course one will be issued.

Once more this year I was honoured to place the wreath on behalf of the parish council at the war memorial at the church on remembrance Sunday.

Finally, the PC has sponsored the Aylmertune for many years. John Rampling and Richard Mickleburgh have done a great job producing an interesting and informative magazine quarterly. However John is relinquishing his role due to his many commitments, if nobody comes forward to take on the role unfortunately the Aylmertune will cease to be produced. If anybody is interested in continuing the magazine please let the PC or John and Richard know to discuss further.

Thank you very much for your time this evening.

Keith Rounce

Chairman Aylmerton Parish Council