

Chairman's Report 2017

I would like to place on record a big thankyou to all my colleagues on this council for the time, commitment and enthusiasm you have all shown during the past twelve months, in solving or otherwise the many and varied problems that have arisen within your respective wards. It is not my intention to name individual councillors or identify specific cases or else we could be in for a long night! I must, however, make a special mention of our Parish Clerk Mrs Sue Harris. Sue, your efforts on our behalf and the professional manner in which your role is carried out is very much appreciated by us all. Also thanks to Chris, our Green Space Manager, for ably looking after the Parish assets and Michelle and her team at the Community House for all their hard work and commitment in and around Bellinge.

The efforts, hard work and support from Councillor Andy Kilbride, our local Neighbourhood Warden Sarah Oakes, and our Parish Highway Warden, Damian Lang are also very much appreciated.

Michael Clasper's involvement, together with his team of volunteers at Little Billing Pocket Park is often, quite justifiably, recognised by his local residents and we are pleased to see the Parish Council's annual grant of £1,000 put to such good use.

I am also pleased that during the year the Parish Council has seen fit to give financial assistance to Bellinge Community House, the Community House Youth Group, Bellinge Pre-School, and our local Scout troop, thereby recognising the importance of investing in the younger members of our community.

We had hoped that Billing Parish Council would have acquired ownership of Bellinge Field by the end of March but unfortunately there has been some hold-up at NBC at the completion stage. We are confident, however, that this transaction will be completed shortly.

We were delighted to see the return of Billing Fayre in June 2016 and look forward to this annual event taking place for many years to come. This year's Fayre will take place on Saturday 24th June 2017 and I look forward to as many volunteers as possible coming forward to assist Steve Rockall and his team. I am confident it will prove to be another enjoyable and successful day.

The year ahead will no doubt throw up new problems but I am confident that with our present team these will be met head on.

In conclusion I would like, on your behalf, to place on record our congratulations to our other local Councillor, Christopher Malpas who will, on 18th May complete his year as Mayor of Northampton. Chris and his wife Lynn will have attended a total of 530 engagements and have raised in excess of £21,000 for his chosen charity – Guide Dogs for the Blind. Chris, well done, and we look forward to welcoming you back to our parish.

John Marlow
Chairman