

The last twelve months have certainly been challenging and memorable.

We started off with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on the first weekend of June. The weekend was great fun for the children with a street party and sports afternoon on the cricket field. The adults had church service and Saturday night entertainment. I would like to thank all those volunteers who came forward too it such a great success for the Parish.

The Parish council has many ongoing concerns of which I am sure favorable results can be obtained. Progress is being made with speeding signs to make our village a much safer environment to live in.

The neighborhood plan is a step nearer with each and every person being able to have their input to the many planning issues and protection of over development. I appreciate there is a great need for youngsters looking for houses, but they have to be in the right place and at the right price. These could be built on brown field sites and not virgin green sites. We need to protect our fields and agriculture for the wellbeing of our nation. Richard has spent many hours on this plan with only a few helpers.

In September there were three important events. The first the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September at the age of 96. The second Ash die back that hit Hoyle copse with over 100 trees having to be felled. I would like to thank Phil Bolt and his marvelous team for their continued work to protect the wood, but also to let so many of us enjoy it, throughout the year.

The boundary concern the PC have is a step nearer satisfaction with the help of Elise.

The third was our Clerk Karen Gilbert, who resigned after four years' service, thank you for steering the ship in the right direction. We hope you enjoy your retirement out on Dartmoor. At long last our banking situation improved by moving away from cheques to online banking. Thankyou Mandy and Michelle for not giving up on this very tricky task.

We as a PC must help to maintain the wonderful facilities we have. The Church House, The Castle, Rozs shop and post office, River Shack, River Dart Gallery, Emma's, who also allows us to meet and provide tea and coffee, also other businesses that help to bring visitors to the village. There are a lot of other parishes that are envious of Stoke Gabriel. The church is in the center of the village with our famous yew tree in the region of a thousand years old. The graveyard is filling up, if anyone knows of any land in the village that could be suitable, please contact Norman, our ever-reliable verger. Our Vicar Reverend Gill Still took her last service on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, we wish her a happy retirement. The Playground needs on going repairs, a visitor commented on "what a lovely well-kept playground we have." The community building of which the PC only paid one pound. The final I's and T's are being sorted at present. We hope the tenants will be a real asset to the parish old and young. Good luck to Beth and her team. Parking is a constant worry too the village and certainly not helped by the recent land slip near the River Shack. The removal of double yellow lines in certain areas and asking people to park responsibly, allowing our emergency services in when required.

In October we took on a temporary clerk Rob Barber but he resigned on May 21<sup>th</sup>. The last main is the toilet block, I wish we could stop whoever you are damaging them on a regular basis. The task ahead is to produce a disabled friendly unit, situated on the same site, on which the PC Own.

Lastly thanks to Rose Rowe, Jonatan Hawkins and Hilary Bastone for their continued help, advice and guidance over the last twelve months. Fellow councilors Emma, Elise, Anne, Pat, Beth Richard, Michelle and Mandy Thank you for the hours you have given up of your free time, attending meetings and all the council work, it's greatly appreciated by me and the majority of our parishioners. Thanks to Mandy vice Chair being able to fill in on numerous occasions when not looking out of the window at the boats. Please keep up the good work for the future of our wonderful, picturesque Parish, I am only a phone call away if you think I can be of any help.