

## Chairman's Annual Report 2018

Welcome to the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parish Meeting of Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council.

I would like to thank Councillor Mike Evanson for his support as Vice Chair during the year as well as my fellow Parish Councillors for their contribution to the life of the Parish over the last year. I would also like to thank Rev Kerry Tankard for his services as Parish Chaplain during the year.

I would also like to thank the employees of the Parish Council for their hard work and commitment during another busy year.

In September 2017 the Council co-opted two new members, Councillor David King and Councillor Charles Lawley to fill vacancies in Chapel East and West Wards.

I also have to report with regret the death of former Councillor Simon Green, who served on the Parish Council from 1982 to 1995 and during this time was Chairman of the Parish Planning Committee.

I am pleased to report that there has been no increase the Parish Rate. The Council have increased the Parish Precept by 2% for the coming year but the number of new houses in the Parish has offset any increase in the Parish Rate.

During the year roof repairs have been carried out on the Town Hall together with the re-pointing of the front elevation. The main hall has been refurbished with new curtains to the windows and stage, with the stage also being repainted.

The Council was disappointed that High Peak Borough Council took the decision to withdraw the facility to view planning applications in the Parish Office as not all residents have access to a computer to view plans electronically.

A programme of refurbishment at 47/49 Market Street commenced in April 2017, with the installation of central heating and a new bathroom to the living accommodation together with a full rewire of the premises. The final part of the refurbishment was completed in March 2018 with the installation of a new shop window.

The Amenities Committee have been working on a Heritage Lottery Bid for the Memorial Park which will include repair and renewal of the railings, drainage, path resurfacing, a measured mile walk with adult exercise equipment, upgrading the toilet facilities at the Bowling Green and partial lighting of the park.

I would like to thank Cemex for their financial contribution towards hanging baskets in Dove Holes for a second year.

In April 2017, following a Public Inquiry a Planning Inspector dismissed a planning application for 6 detached houses at Tunstead Milton in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan has now been tested at two Public Inquires following which the relevant planning appeals have been dismissed by a Planning Inspector.

The Council have continued to work with High Peak Borough Council to bring forward the Economic Regeneration Project in Chapel East Ward as outlined in the Economic Regeneration Masterplan.

With a significant number of new houses now in the Parish it is important that there are skilled jobs available locally to match the increasing workforce.

The Footpaths Working Group have been looking at the Warmbrook Trail and Peak Forest Tramway as outlined in the Community Plan. They have liaised closely with the Greenways Officer at Derbyshire County Council and have submitted their report to the Council.

There was another outstanding display of lights in the town at Christmas and I would like to thank Chapel Business Association, Rev Kerry Tankard and Rev Colin Pearson, Girls and Boys Brigades, Chapel Town Band and the Carnival Queen who switched the Christmas lights on.

The Council made grants during the year towards the upkeep of the burial grounds in the Parish and to Chapel British Legion branch, Chapel Male Voice Choir, Churches Together in Chapel-en-le-Frith for Lent Lunches, Chapel Primary School, Chapel Business Association and St Thomas Becket Parish Church.

The Council newsletter has been distributed to homes in Chapel-en-le-Frith and Dove Holes 3 times during the year. The Council has a new website and now has a Facebook page which will be developed further to reach social media users.

The Parish Council continue to work for the benefit of the local community and provide quality local services and are looking forward to projects coming to fruition in the coming year.