

## **Parish Councillors**

Sadly our District Councillor and Parish Councillor, Tony Meadows, lost his fight against cancer. Jo Fish was elected to the council and Mike Bamford co-opted. Martyn Phillips was re-elected as Chairman.

## **Parish Council**

Rayne is fortunate to have a hard-working and committed clerk in Mel Whiteside. During the year Mel achieved her Certificate in Local Council administration, enabling the council to apply for Quality Council Status.

## **Quality Council**

Another achievement this year has been the recognition of the Council as Quality Council. This has allowed us to bid for additional funding although we were unsuccessful in our bid for a new mini tractor to replace our ageing grass cutting machinery and further improve the maintenance of the Village environment.

## **District and County Council representatives**

Councillor Roger Walters continues to serve the people of Rayne on the County Council; with Mike Bantorpe returned as our District Councillor. We are grateful for the support and hard work of both our representatives.

## **Achievements of the year**

- Recognition as a Quality Council
- Resolution of Flooding within the village
- Completion of the Ashes Memorial Wall
- Completion of the Skateboard Project
- Installation of play equipment
- Erection of a Youth Shelter
- Funding of Village Hall refurbishment
- Liaison with Rayne Primary School Youth Council
- Erection of barriers to the former Foundry site
- Enforcement of planning regulation breaches
- Speed surveys
- Installation of litter and dog bins
- Consideration of XXX planning applications
- Funding bids
- Maintenance of grass areas within the village
- Litter picking on playing field
- Joining the Parish Paths Partnership
- Working with the Police to address speeding and unauthorised motorcycle use on the Flich Way
- Provision and maintenance of additional street lighting
- Installation of temporary mobile speed displays
- Discussion with Essex County Council in respect of the footway adjacent to the village green, Shalford Road
- Production of a leaflet detailing the standard of service you can expect from your Parish Council
- Publication of an action/maintenance plan
- Joined the Parish Paths Partnership scheme

## **What we couldn't do**

- Persuade ECC to move the sign for Rayne to indicate the Braintree junction on the eastbound carriage way
- Persuade the RAF not to fly over the village

## **What's ongoing?**

- Provision of salt bins
- Reduction in motorcycle use of Fritchway
- Provision of a foot path on Shalford Road
- Extension of burial ground
- The site of the former foundry

We are aware that villagers would like to see the ongoing items resolved as soon as possible, your Parish Council is working within its powers to achieve these ends.

## **Best Kept Village**

Many people work to make the village look attractive, particularly the displays provided by the village pubs and although the results from the Best Kept Competition were in line with previous years, the Parish Council is aware that there are several sites within the village that are set for development and, despite our best efforts these remain a detraction, particularly the former foundry site.

## **Parish Council Web site**

The Parish Council website is maintained by our clerk and the computer in the Community Information Point (CIP), provided by the Web Steering Group, allows access to the internet and the minutes of Parish Council meetings held during the last two years, free of charge, to all villagers.

## **Facilities for Younger Parishioners**

This year has seen the completion of the skateboard park and the installation of both new play equipment and a Youth Shelter. We are grateful to Councillor Macnee who has worked tirelessly to achieve these facilities. The Parish Council appreciates the efforts of Park, Playground Action for Rayne Kids, in its fundraising for a new play area that will meet the latest safety regulations and provide the much needed upgrading of the play area.

## **Police**

Relationships between the Police and the Parish Council are very good. Many parishioners now report incidents to the clerk who forwards these to our Police Officer, Natasha Keaney. This year has seen numerous letters being sent to motorists parking illegally on the pedestrian crossing in the Village and visits to those reported for a range of offences or anti social behaviour.

## **Thank you**

The Parish Council wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of the village, from raising issues and concerns, running clubs and societies, to picking up litter, making Rayne a better place to live.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

Last year our Annual Parish meeting was well attended and this year we are meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Parish Council meetings and particularly the Annual meeting are opportunities for you to contribute to the development of the village and raise issues of concern. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your views and answering your questions.