

**Bradpole Parish Annual Meeting  
Chairman's Report 2016  
Thursday 6th April 2017 7.15pm  
Bradpole Village Hall**

The past 12 months has been a challenging time for the Parish Council with the resignation of 4 Councillors owing to ill health or work commitments. We have been fortunate to have co-opted two new Councillors, Wendy Smart and Rob Casey. Rob Casey is now standing for election as a County Councillor. The Council still has two vacancies to be filled. The role of Councillor has changed over the years and is far more demanding with WDDC and DCC expecting Parish Councils to take on more and more work. Councillors need to be able to access information electronically and be prepared to spend time reading and researching.

- In 2014 Bradpole Parish joined with Bridport and four other parish council to form the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs Spear, Dendle and Baker have represented the Parish on the Steering Group and Joint Councils. Unfortunately no one from the Community has come forward to sit on any of the groups. In April 2016 the Councillors called an extraordinary meeting to discuss the continuation of Bradpole Parish within the Plan after presentations from the Neighbour Hood Plan Team and after much discussion the Councillors agreed that Bradpole Parish should remain part of the Plan but to be monitored and reviewed again in April 2017. A report from Cllr Baker will be presented during this meeting. Between them the three Councillors have spent many hours working on the issues to ensure that Bradpole Parish is fairly represented and their views heard and also more importantly that the views collected during our Parish Plan update in 2016 are represented.
- Councillors have considered 22 Planning Applications over the year and also 4 applications for tree work. Councillors encourage residents to make the Council aware of any concerns they may have over Planning Applications that might affect them.
- Continuing employment of the Lengthsman. The Lengthsman carries out many task that were previously carried out and paid for by District or County Council, but owing to budget cuts they no longer do so it falls to the Parish Council to carry out and pay for these task. This situation is likely to continue and increase into the future.
- In 2014 we commenced a 3 year plan to try and eradicate the Japanese Knotweed in Townsend Way, the last two years results are encouraging but time will tell. Treatment will restart this month.

- Gore Cross Green is now registered with Fields In Trust which will help to ensure that the Green is protected from development in the future and kept as an open space for all the community to enjoy.  
We hope to hold a community event on the Field in 2017.
- Councillors have been involved in several Consultation documents from various outside bodies including WDDC Draft Local Plan, Reorganisation of Local Councils and the review of the NHS within Dorset.
- Thanks to the commitment of Cllr Baker the Bradpole Parish Web Site is thriving with up to date information and the site is receiving several hits a day. The Councillors have also taken on board the fact that contact by Social Media is now a very important way of informing residents of things going on within the Parish, so the Parish Council now has a Face Book Page and a Twitter account both which are proving very popular.
- Councillors continue to work in partnership with other agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of the community as a whole.
- Regular responding to correspondence and parishioners comments.
- Remembrance Service – Attended by the Clerk together with Cllr Hudson who laid a poppy wreath at the memorial.

**Once again the next 12 months will be a challenging year for all Parish Councils coping with financial restraints and less work been carried out by WDDC and DCC.**

**The Parish Council strives to work with the community, the Council alone cannot overcome many of the Parish problems without the cooperation of local residents.**

**T. Dendle. Vice Chairman Bradpole Parish Council on behalf of Chairman**

**Dated 6th April 2017**