

It gives me pleasure to present my seventh annual report of the Stansted Parish Council.

#### Planning

During the year we have had 24 applications submitted of which 17 were approved or had no objection, 1 withdrawn and 6 are pending. This trend is in line with previous years.

#### Highways

Highways has been its usual curates egg. However, considering the tight times we live in we should be both thankful and grateful for the overall service they have been providing.

#### Rural broadband

We have started to have movement with the rural broadband and it is now moving from project to build phase. I have confident that next year we will have a solution in place making us a 21<sup>st</sup> century parish!

#### Play equipment

The new play park has been built in Stansted. We will need to review whether we follow up with the second phase now that the school no longer exists and grants are more difficult to come by.

#### The school

The most disappointing and upsetting issue for the year was the closure of the school. None of the authorities involved can be said to have covered themselves in glory and they have conspired to removing an important asset from the heart of our small community. To add insult to injury the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education is fighting the parish over ownership of the playground.

#### Brownes Bequest

The coppicing work still needs to be arranged.

#### The Church

Although not a formal parish matter the Cloisters project was completed and opened by the Bishop Of Rochester. Despite concerns from some about this building it is a great addition to the Parish. However, it seems somewhat ironic that as the school closed to the bringing on the next generation with a Christian ethos within the parish, the church has expanded.

#### Thanks

Stansted and Fairseat is a fun and supportive community which works because of the time given up for free and I would to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave their time last year. There are too many to thank individually but if I was to name any individuals then thanks need to go to our County Councillor Sarah Hohler, our County Councillor Sarah Hohler, new Borough Councillors Martin Coffin and Robin Betts and parish councillors and our Clerk Mrs Roxana Brammer who all work tirelessly in front and behind the scenes to make things happen and keep the parish running.

*[May 2016]*