**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2024**

The present Council has now completed its 3rd and final year in situ. This unusual period, which is normally 4 years, but due to the pandemic there was no election in 2020 so we served for 5 years.

Several members have decided not to stand for election this year. On behalf of the council I would to thank Norma Goodier, Ron Tyson, Louise Taylor and my most recent Vice Chairman Richard Plant for all their hard work and time they have given as members of the council over the many years of service between them.

We were also shocked by the news that David Maughan had sadly passed away just after Christmas and will be sorely missed.

We have one new member who put his name forward and I would like to welcome Ian Eccles to the council. This of course leaves us with 7 members and we can co-opt up to 4 more, although I am aware that one of the above who didn’t stand for election is having a change of mind and will be putting their name forward in due course.

The Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council is now split into 2 wards, Becconsall and Hesketh Bank. Myself and Tim Barnacle represent the Becconsall Ward and Ian Eccles joins Joan Witter, Kate Maughan, Steve Kirkby & John Hunter to represent the Hesketh Bank Ward.

During the past 12 months The Flooding Committee has continued to push for a joint solution to the problems occurred in recent years. Since publishing the Hydrologists report in November 2023 the committee met with **the Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP (Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)** local Borough councillors and representatives from local Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, NFU and the local farming community at Guide Road to discuss the issues we are experiencing. The Northern Parishes Watercourse Review was presented to them and a copy was taken away by the Minister for consideration who is committed to working with us to achieve an effective resolution.

The Persimmon house building site either side of the centre of the village have now extended the Henry Alty Way path through its development. Ian Cropper and his group have done a wonderful job delivering this unique facility for the residents of Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.

As Chairman I thank the clerk Graham Crompton and all of the Council past and present for the hard work that they undertake for the whole community within the Parish of Hesketh-with-Becconsall.

