

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

The present Council has just completed a productive and successful second year in office since being elected in May 2016.

In June following the resignation of Cllr Kenyon we co-opted Jeff Christie.

In late May of last year we were informed that the Viran Medical Centre would close at the end of June. A new provider was appointed to deliver GP services for their patients. The practice is now situated in the car park at Tarleton Health Centre and this arrangement was to be a short-term contract of 12 months, with the potential to extend it by a further six months. It will be interesting to see what the eventually out-come will be,

In June we again entered the Best Kept Village competition and as part of that, and our continued "Love Hesketh Bank Campaign", we ran our own 'Best Kept' competition. This saw judges tasked with finding the best front garden, business premises and allotment in the village. The winners each received two tickets to the "Southport Flower Show" as main sponsors of the competition and they were as follows – the winners of the best front garden were the owners of the property at 34 Becconsall Lane. The business premises were Leighton Watkinson Oils and the best allotment was Plot number 15.

In September we were given a presentation by the Environment Agency, RSPB and Natural England which described the workings behind the first breach of the former outer sea wall at Hesketh Outmarsh East which successfully returned a large area of land to salt marsh.

As predicted, after planning was refused in December 2016, approval was finally given for the development of the former brickworks site by the West Lancashire Planning Committee at their October meeting. The scheme provides for some 212 houses of various sizes spread across two areas of the Alty's site.

December saw Cllr Mike Ellis taking over the job of producing the Council's Quarterly newsletter. We owe a big thank you to Cllr. Diane Earles who was the instigator of the new style publication taking over the "*Shoreline Summary*" which was first launched in 2005.

In January work began at the Shore Road Recreation Ground to replace faulty land drains. This was part of the major works costing £37,000 to overhaul the site including the reduction of the hedge to School Fold and the re-surfacing of the Council's car park. Towards the end of February early March work also started at the car park at the Centenary Sports Ground with the installation of security lighting which is now in place.

The three recipients of the Love Hesketh Bank Award winners this year were awarded to Mary Scambler who has been a driving force in the community from youth clubs to improving the general area around All Saints Church and Church Hall. Trish Whitehead for all the good work she does as a Friend of Becconsall Old Church and Tarleton Fire Fighters.

I would like thank all of the members of the Council for the hard work they voluntarily undertake for the whole community within the Parish of Hesketh-with-Becconsall and look forward to the next 12 months and beyond.

Finally I would also like to thank our Clerk, Ian Cropper for his continued support and guidance to myself and all the councillors.

