

# Chair's Report May 2017

The Parish Council has been involved in a diverse range of activities over the last year.

Following the results of the community consultation on the setting up of a development trust at the end of last year. The Parish Council took on board the aspirations of the community and agreed to follow up on the need to consider transport issues for the community. To this end Paul McIver who had been leading on the development of the trust joined the Parish Council and subsequently facilitated a public meeting to discuss the communities requirements. The conclusion being that at this time no action was needed but requirements may change in the future.

As in previous years, the Parish Council has been involved in facilitating a number of bodies to obtain grants from the RWE Innogy Middlemoor community wind farm including refurbishment works to both Eglington and South Charlton village halls. During the year the Council agreed to change its position in relation to grant applications. The Parish Council will continue to act as a conduit for grant applications from the community. However the Council will now make it clear that on some applications this does not mean that they necessarily support the application and should the need arise will make their position clear to the grant panel.

The working group established by the Parish Council has continued to pursue the provision of broadband to the whole community and with the assistance of funds from the RWE Innogy windfarm fund is currently pursuing the provision of faster broadband to North Charlton and the dispersed settlements in the Shipley area.

The Parish Council website was launched during the year and whilst providing a medium for Parish Council reports and minutes also gives provision for a number of organisations to report on their activities and future events

The negotiations with the developers of the former Eglington School reached a final conclusion during the year with completion of the sale of the staff room to the rear of the school. The Parish Council also paid for repairs, following storm damage, to the composting toilet and shed erected on the community field.

A number of minor schemes concerning the road network have been pursued by the Council including the provision of a grit bin on the road to Harehope Farm, repairs to the East Ditchburn road, repair and replacement of the footpath in front of the Tankerville Arms and adjacent properties and repairs and replacement to the cattle grid at South Charlton.

The Parish Council is currently researching the need for a Parish warden to be contracted to carry out duties in the parish including maintenance of the community buildings, grass cutting and minor works in the parish.

Further comments were made to Northumberland County Council on the draft Local Plan and assistance was given to English Heritage in the listing of the Eglington War Memorial.

Finally the Parish Council was sorry to lose the services of Bill Purvis, Ian Grant, Eddie Stafford. Tony Sutcliffe and Shirley Wright who all stood down at the May election.

