

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 2016**

The council has had two main ventures for the year, car parking and the Wind Turbine Community Fund.

With regard to the parking, Mr Goldson had identified several safety related tasks within his ward and in our turn the parking had been costed and we are now awaiting a date for work to commence. With the help of council tenants we applied for a grant towards the price from WDC.

The Wind Turbine Community Fund, meetings were held with the Norfolk Foundation, Bernard Matthews and members of the parish council's of Sotherton and Holton. A committee has been formed and it is hoped to have the first meeting in October.

The Parish Council have been considering a Neighbourhood Plan after councillors attended a meeting with WDC Planning Officers from Lowestoft. WDC Local Plan is being updated to the year 2036. WDC highlighted the need for housing and development and we were told a NP would allow us to have a say on the type of housing, the number of houses we would like to see should a developer buy land within the village. After asking the opinion of around 50% of the residents where only a few replies were received – all except one against development in the village, the PC decided against going through the long process of a NP especially as there is a general lack of infrastructure within the parish and perhaps because of this developers would not look favourably on the village.

I have been attending Tony Goldsons Parishes meetings where the chairmen from a number of parishes exchange information, highlight problems and gather ideas for the future. At present they are dealing with speeding cars and have set up VAS equipment in problem areas. Mr Goldson was able to negotiate a good price with the company making the equipment.

Telephone lines and broadband continue to be a problem in the outer areas of the parish and the possibility of a phone mast was being looked at, but as Tyneholm has already placed a mast on their grain silo, this is on hold for a while.

In an issue of road safety and the possibility of a bad winter a number of grit bins were purchased. Most problem areas are now covered.

I would like to say a special thanks to Mr Bob McTaggart for his work within the village. He generally keeps an eye on the village and especially his work on hedges and grass cutting.