

# NEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL MEETING 2018

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to Newchurch Parish Councils Annual Meeting.

It is with much regret I must announce that Cllr Shaw has resigned from his position as Parish Councillor. He has been a very good Councillor, who has done a good many things behind the scenes and as with all our Councillors done them willingly and without fuss. We will miss his wise words at Council meetings. There are a couple of things which he is involved with at present and he would like to finish these off, but feels for personal reasons he must stand down with immediate effect.

We will of course be giving a public notice of a vacancy as soon as practicable, and basically if within 14 days we have 10 or more people give proper notice to our clerk that they wish to stand, then we will have to have a Bye-Election otherwise we will be looking to co-opt from those that have applied. If you have any questions about this vacancy then you can always speak to me or the clerk.

At last years Annual Meeting you may recall, I told you Cllr. Cragg and I had been holding interviews for the post of Parish Clerk. We are pleased to say we offered the position to Mr. Michael Sharpe, who I would like to introduce to you this evening , for those of you that haven't met him before.

The highlight of the year as far as the Parish Council is concerned was the unveiling of the Memorial on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, to the Squadrons and personnel that were stationed on the Airfield . Cllr Sneyd and his father finished off the rockwork and fitted the flagpole, which was kindly donated by Messrs Jadebay Ltd. He and Cllr Waters also fitted the plaques. Cllr Cragg virtually singlehanded, but with a lot of help from his P.A. Mrs. Starling organized the rest of the day. What a day it was too. A lovely meal then a march to the Spinney behind the Air Cadets Band. A quite moving ceremony was held, conducted by the Rev. ( Squadron Leader ) Matthew Buchan. The Memorial was unveiled by Mrs. Jennifer Rose, the wife of the late Flight Sgt Morris Rose, 3 (F) Squadron R.A.F, who was credited with shooting down the first V1 in daylight. We were also joined on the day, by the Commanding Officer and Standard Party from 56 Squadron R.A.F. There were also several local British Legion Branches with their Standards. I think it was a really impressive sight. We were also treated to a splendid display by the R.A.F. Falcons Parachute display team. Even the weather was brilliant. We all re-convened at the Hall for tea and refreshments. Many thanks to the Ladies who organized this. A truly memorable day all round. If you would like to re-live some of these events I can do no better than to point you to the history section of the Village website, [newchurchvillage.org](http://newchurchvillage.org) where the memories will come flooding back.

Onto more mundane matters. You may also recall that I spoke last year about the incident on Jubilee Field involving a small boy and the newly installed roundabout and the work that Mrs Prentice and I had put in. Eventually the case was settled to everyone's relief thankfully.

The treatment plant at Links Close is another of our perennial problems, and still keeps on being so. A Shepway Environmental Health Officer is now involved because of the sewage in the ditch, but oh how slow it is to get anything done. The plant was renewed about 2 years ago because of ongoing problems. It was rebuilt internally about a couple of months ago and I noticed at an inspection last week that it is breaking up again.

I would like to thank Mr. Head and Brooker Farm for their continued maintenance of the Jubilee Field. It is very much appreciated.

We are actively looking into adding to the play equipment this year, in the form of a Trim Trail. We have had a few grants towards this and I would like to thank our clerk for his hard work in obtaining them.

Our continued thanks go to the small band of volunteers, who continue to maintain the Wildlife pond. It does not go unnoticed. It still gets a lot of visitors having their picnics there, as does of course the picnic area in the spinney. The primroses have really come on this year. The cowslips are spreading nicely, as are the violets. There are even a few wood anemones and the odd bluebell making a welcome return. Of course the recurring dog fouling continues, all we can do is be vigilant and put it down to crass ignorance I suppose, but we certainly do not ignore it.

Our Tree Warden Mrs. Cragg has been quite busy this year and her advice has been sought on several occasions on trees involved in planning matters. Once again I would like to thank her, for her work in this voluntary position.

I must thank Cllr. Cragg and our Webmaster Mrs. Starling for the sterling work that they do on the village website. We get a lot of very favourable comments about it, but they still need to be notified of news and events going on in the Village so that it can all be displayed there. So please make it your first point of contact for village events to be advertised on it.

The most recent problem to effect the Council is Data Protection. This appears to be a bigger problem than first thought. Thankfully our clerk is up to speed on this .

Once again I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their help and hard work during this past year. I would also like to thank our clerk Mr. Michael Sharpe who makes our lives so much easier. Last, but not least, I must thank our treasurer Mrs Denby for all her hard work in keeping our finances in order. We have just had our accounts internally audited and the Auditor commented on how well the accounts were kept and how it made her job so much easier.

Thank you