

Community Connection: 19 April, 2017.

No-one can say that this has been a quiet year! I say this because April marks the start and finish of the administrative and financial year and a certain amount of review and planning has to take place.

It would be nice to avoid carrying the difficult issues of the old year into the new: at present that just is not possible. The burdensome matter of the 'Harvest House' development still hangs heavily over us: yes, planning consent has been granted – in the face of a compelling case for 'adjustment' to the proposals – and a Judicial Review, financed by a community benefactor, is now in process of preparation. Communication and process of this development have been difficult, to say the least, and I remain sad that, despite the Parish Council's request, no discussion between all those involved was attempted. Particular concern is felt for those of our residents who live adjacent to the development site: should the current plans be put into effect, it would be good to hear that the developers have made a move to ease those residents' burden. I suspect we will make this suggestion more forcefully IF the buildings go ahead. Of course, we are supportive of our farmers and the agricultural community, and wish to see them well resourced, and I repeat the wish that there had been greater dialogue which may have reduced the pressure that economies of scale (and height!) have placed on the community.

Much else has happened this last year and we have had our achievements, but my main aim in this short connection is to highlight that there are times when your Parish Council finds itself faced with a considerable amount of activity.....and there are not that many of us to carry out the work! We have a splendid Parish Clerk and process routines well – it is when the 'big issues' come up (and there are several in the pipeline). We really do need people to join the Parish Council. Please do give this some thought.....do not think that you have no contribution to make. The Annual General Meeting of YOUR Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council will be held on Monday 8 May at 7pm in Fersfield Parish Church. Please do try to be there – and consider joining us!

With best wishes to you all,

Richard.