

Chairman's Report

May 2019

Over the past year the Parish Council has worked hard on several projects to improve the village –

The first meeting with ARC, the company that designed the Cairn took place at the end of February 2017. After 21 months of liaison between ARC, Swale Borough Council and the Parish Council, the Cairn project was finalised. On the 11 November 2018, following a service at Iwade Church, the congregation proceeded to Woodpecker Park, where the Vicar dedicated the Cairn to the memory of the seven men from Iwade who fell during WW1. Many attended and admired the bronze plaque, which gives names of the men, their rank and their service. At last Iwade has a War Memorial to be truly proud of and which honours those brave villagers.

For the second year running, the Parish Council has taken over the grass cutting contract from Kent County Council, as a result of KCC reducing their cutting regime to only six times per year. The grass is now cut to a strict standard and far more frequently; I am sure residents are proud of the neatness and general appearance of the village.

Finally, after much hard work from those associated with the project and volunteers who gave their time freely, the Barn was completed at the beginning of the year. To assist with funding, just over £16,000 came from a Broadband Grant and just over £10,000 donated by the Parish Council. The Barn is now a very popular, successful venue, used by various residents' groups.

A new bus shelter was erected to the front of Woodpecker Park, making two in total in that area. KCC and the Parish Council felt that there was a need for this due to the growth in the village and an increase of people (in particular school children) waiting for the bus in the morning in at times inclement weather. The funding for this came from S.106 money.

Our most successful (and talked about) project this year was the festive lights. It took quite a bit of paperwork, discussions, etc., to meet all the rules and regulations necessary for the lights; did exceed the projected costs because of extra equipment insisted on by KCC but in the end all was finalised. The lights brought a magic to the village, enjoyed by many children and also adults. Our Christmas tree lighting up ceremony on the 25 November was made more magical with the appearance of snow (courtesy of the snow machine) and our magnificent Father Christmas, who enchanted all the children. Finally, the Iwade Can Sing Choir entertained us all with Carols. There was a huge turn-out for the switch on and the atmosphere was tremendous.

Members of the Parish Council are all volunteers, giving freely of their time and working with a strong commitment to enhance/fight on behalf of our community; here is hoping that in 2019/20, the Parish Council can achieve even more.

