

Chair's report 2016

2015-2016 marks the year that Rowton Parish Council moved into the 21st century with its launch of the website: rowtonparishcouncil.org.uk. Thanks to the stalwart effort of our clerk, Christine Davies, we became fully transparent at the beginning of the year. The minutes, financial affairs and important dates are now easily accessible to our villagers.

With technology in mind, BT fibre optic appears to have been finally resolved as residents are satisfied their broadband speeds are greatly improved. Perseverance by residents, our clerk and Cllr Stuart Parker has paid off for the time being.

Tony Smith stepped down at the end of last year. His contribution to the successful running of the council has been greatly appreciated. Fortunately, Paul Shannon who lives on Long Rowton Lane is happy to be co-opted onto the council this month and we welcome him and his many skills.

There has been continued activity on the Village Green. Mrs Rosemary Boothroyd consistently maintains the shrubs and flowers around the Civil War Memorial Stone. The Maudslays are instrumental in the care of the grass and in providing the electricity for the Christmas Tree lights and Mrs Angela Oliver very kindly donated and planted daffodil bulbs along the sandstone edging on Claypits Lane with the help of members of the council. We thank them all.

In April, the bus shelter on the A41 was demolished following a motor accident but fortunately it is the responsibility of CWaC to replace it. It would be good if the work was done sooner rather than later as villagers do use the bus shelter.

Over the year, we have been in regular contact with Highways regarding the traffic issues in Moor Lane. Following a survey of Moor Lane residents' views on the problems of speed, volume and size of vehicles, the parish council has several times suggesting remedial measures. Unfortunately, to date, we have been unsuccessful but we haven't given up.

City Councillor Stuart Parker has regularly attended our meetings and been able to advise and support us on many issues and we thank him for his continued interest. He has provided us with grants to secure such projects as the re-laying of the sandstone edging on the Village Green and assured us that we can apply for financial backing in future community based ventures.

On the social side, we had two successful events this year.

Firstly, last October we hosted at Rowton Hall Hotel a talk by David Cummings on the contribution of locals to World War One. It was a very moving and poignant presentation, attended and greatly appreciated by a good and loyal number of people. David's lottery funded book "Christleton –Great War Voices Stories" has since been well received by many. We expressed our thanks to David by donating £100 towards "The Hospice of the Good Shepherd".

Secondly, the carol singing on the Village Green continues to draw together the residents in increasing numbers. We owe our thanks to Rachel Morrey for providing the music, Paul Quellyn Roberts for the Gluhwein; not forgetting the efforts of the two Richards, Fitton and Salmon for erecting the tree and lights to put some sparkle into the evening!

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Clerk, Christine Davies for her running of the day to day affairs of the council, efficiently and meticulously. Also, I thank my fellow councillors for their invaluable input. I now offer my full support to our new Chair, Pat Fitton and wish her good luck in the forthcoming year.

Morfudd Salmon