

*Report from the Chair*  
*AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018*

As usual we have had 10 monthly meetings in the year, excluding September and December.

Items of particular interest in the May 2017 to April 2018 period:

1. In 2017 we made representation regarding the East Devon electoral boundaries review by the Electoral Commission. Our wish to remain in the the same ward as Broadclyst was unfortunately not accepted and Poltimore will in future be part of the Exe Valley ward. However, we will continue to maintain close links with Broadclyst Parish Council.
2. Following the 2017 local elections we also welcomed our 2 new County Councillors, Sara Randall-Johnson and Ray Bloxham and our new District Councillor Eleanor Rylance and District Councillor Chris Pepper who have been of great help in providing valuable advice, guidance and updates on district and county matters.
3. Planning applications were at a low ebb in the last 12 months, only 4 being notified in our parish and one in Broadclyst (for the DAAT helipad).
4. We funded and installed a Defibrillator (which is attached to the outside of Parish Hall) and funded the training for sufficient numbers of volunteers.
5. We have joined the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) as their publications are very helpful in campaigning to keep this “a green and pleasant land”.
6. We made a small contribution to the Poltimore Estate Research Society who are in the process of researching and preparing a book on early 20<sup>th</sup> century Poltimore properties and their occupants.
7. We are making progress in dealing with potholes – as a parish council we are now obliged to deal with potholes that are smaller than the minimum size set by Devon Highways. I have to thank Cllr Richie Gibbons for undertaking the required training and leading the fight with dedicated volunteers.
8. We continue to find funding from the Parishes Together Fund and the Rolling Community Project for smaller capital expenses such as tools and a wheelbarrow. I have to thank all the volunteers who have helped to collect litter, cut back hedges, cut grass and generally make Poltimore a village to be proud of. I am also grateful for the initiative of the ladies of the WI for their forthcoming gardening skills in beautifying the triangle.
9. We have continued to provide funding for the Parish Church both as a direct grant and also through the profits from the monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings which was started 3 years ago and aimed at repairing the cobbled path. So far the Coffee Mornings have provided approx £1,500 as well as a very enjoyable social event and probably the finest cakes in the South West!

10. I continue, as webmaster, to undertake the data input to the Parish Website (this being required by Westminster as part of the transparency code requirements)
11. The good news is that we have managed to keep our Parish Precept at the same level for the past few years which you will have seen in your individual Community Charge statements. In part this is due to our continuing successful search for external funding for various projects.
12. Lastly, my thanks to the tireless efforts of our Parish Clerk Jennie Edwards and to my Council colleagues who have been very active; being our eyes and ears on what is happening and for their expertise and knowledge on a variety of subjects.

One final point – Joy has decided to retire as a Parish Councillor as of this evening after 7 years on the council. I know you all appreciate her efforts in so many areas, but then she is my wife so I am a little biased!

Having been re-elected as your Chair, I also have to tell you that I intend to retire in 12 months time. So we are currently looking for 2 new Councillors (there being one existing vacancy) and another in 12 months time. If you know anybody who would be interested please make contact with our Parish Clerk, Jennie Edwards.

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