

ALL CANNINGS PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR 2015-16

A TALE OF RENEWAL AND COMING TOGETHER

CLLR A GRAY

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

SUPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND



Just before I took over as Chair we finally managed to persuade BT to install the fast fibre in the village a little earlier than they planned due to people power and a petition. And it has been so much more pleasant to 'surf' since.

NEW CLERK

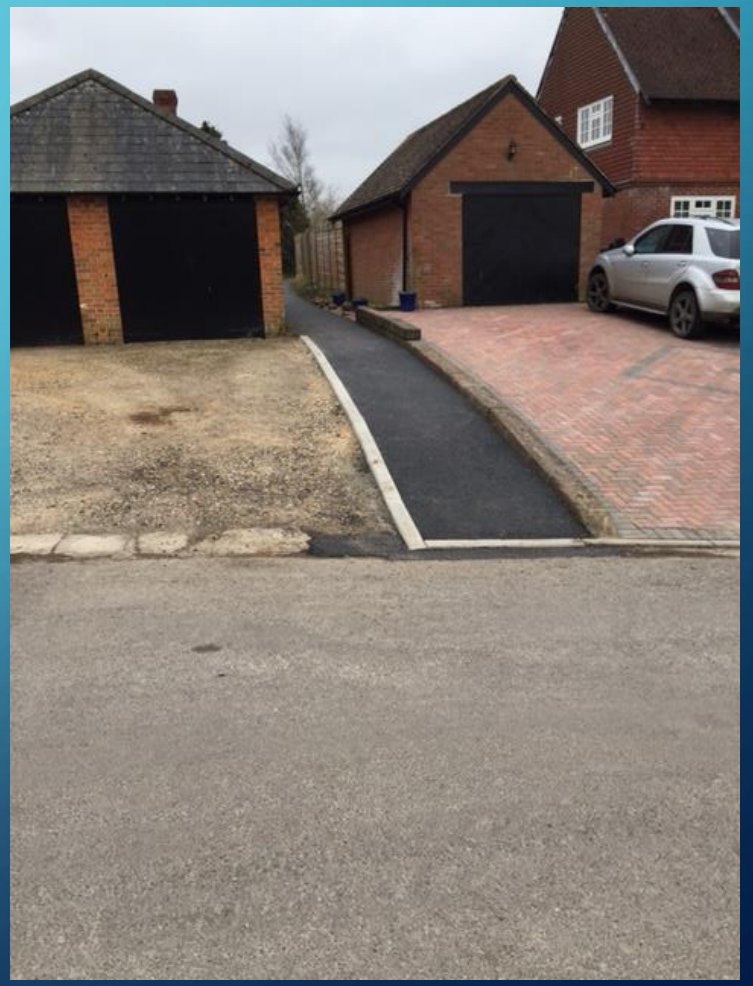


An exciting development during the year has been the departure of Jim Scott as clerk after many years being replaced by Kate Asbury. It has been a remarkably smooth transition for us and I applaud Kate's success in getting up to speed with so much.

FOOTPATHS AND TIDYING



Another case of renewal – spearheaded by Sylvia. A grant was obtained and combined with some money donated by the Concert at the Kings a whole section of the key footpath network within the village has been resurfaced. Kevin and Sylvia have also done some remedial work on Darkies Lane whilst Kevin works quietly behind the scenes clearing overgrowth etc. on paths in the village. In a separate initiative I purchased some litter grabs on behalf of the council for Rosie Lock and her volunteers who have been going round the village and periphery picking up rubbish. A worthy prelude to the UK's 'Clean for the Queen' initiative



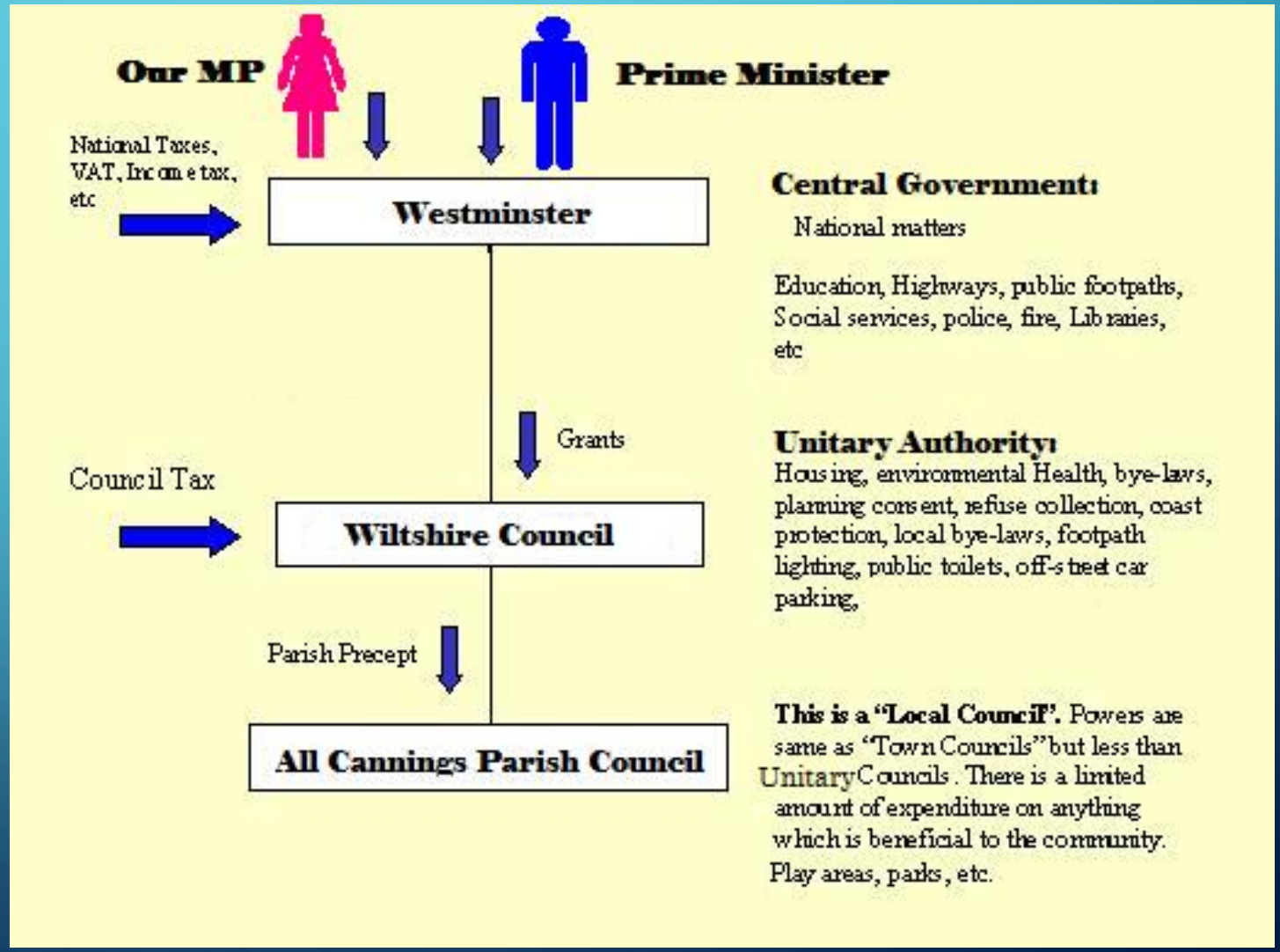
PLAY EQUIPMENT

Very much the brainchild of our Vice Chair Sylvia Butcher. She has tirelessly sifted through playground options, quotes and grant applications to get the best deals to renew the vast majority of the play equipment on the Green and to refurbish the remainder. It is hoped that this set up will last for many years to come to keep the future children of the village occupied and fit! Congratulations to Sylvia. Also thanks to Kevin and Doug for removing the old play equipment.



VISIT TO SCHOOL

I actually did this! I presented a powerpoint presentation to the pupils at our local school to explain what we do. And it's a little bit more than just grass cutting and dealing with dog poo! I fielded questions and explained a few things to the older children present (10-11 year olds I believe). The presentation, in PDF format, can be seen at http://allcannings.org.uk/attachments/article/139/All%20Cannings%20Parish%20Council.pdf



CHURCHYARD AND GATES



The churchyard has had more than its fair share of issues ever since I joined the Parish Council a few years back. But with a healthier partnership with the PCC spearheaded by Doug we have repaired and made safe the aging tombs and gravestones to keep them in good order, without spending a fortune of public money. The last tomb looks smart and pristine, with the church happy and content at its appearance. Most recently the aging gates have been taken away, cleaned, repainted and re-hung courtesy of Doug and Kevin.

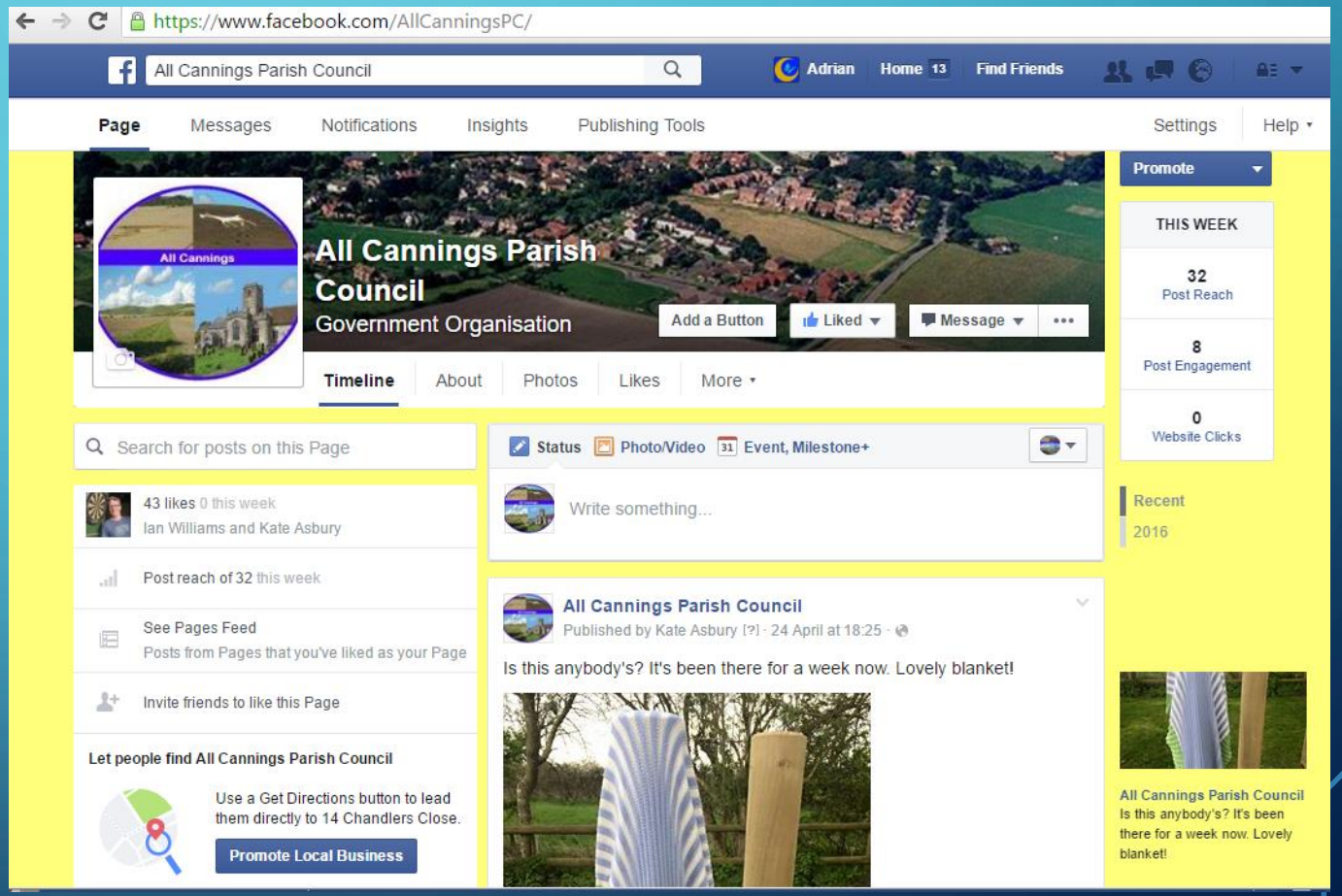
GRASS CUTTING AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS



These have again been awarded for the next few years. Unusually, for financial reasons they have all been awarded to a single (local) company. It is hoped that they maintain the high standard that they previously maintained along with their competitors. Thanks to Kate and Doug for drawing up and administering the contracts this time round.

NEW ACPC FACEBOOK PAGE

At the suggestion of others I have set up an AC PC facebook page that will hopefully achieve what the prior AC facebook account did not, by promoting events to local users of social media. In this day and age the local newsletter and signboards are not enough to put the word about. The website will also be maintained and expanded before it is (hopefully) transferred into community hands with funding from local companies and organisation via advertising. The twitter feed remains and will supplement the other channels. We will leave Instagram until the parish is able to take its own selfies!
https://www.facebook.com/AllCanningsPC/



QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



I have recently been chairing a separate group of villagers who are preparing celebrations for the village on 12th June for the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. Sylvia and Kate have also been part of this as we bring together entertainers, events, competitions such as a 'Bake 'Orf''for all and a Parade of Royals for the youngsters. A celebration cake is to be baked and decorated before being shared with as many people within the Parish as is possible. The first part has recently taken place with a beacon set up and lit by Robbie on Clifford's Hill. I saw the beacon from miles away as I approached the village last Thursday. It made a spectacular sight and cost the public purse not a penny. It certainly dwarfed the beacon lit by Devizes town. Congratulations to Robbie, and let's hope the main celebration will be as successful and memorable.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

We came second in the 'super league' of past winners last year. The entry that time was completed by Jim. Now that we are back in the overall competition again it is hoped that with all of the regeneration that has taken place since last year, along with the vibrancy of the villagers here and new features such as the Long Barrow (which incidentally looks particularly lovely now that the vegetation has matured) we will be in a good state to excel. Thanks to Kate for submitting this year's entry with a few additions and tweaks from one or two of us along the way.







SUMMARY



The many things above sum up the Parish Council quite well. All members of the Parish council, whether born and bred in the village or relative newcomers like myself, working quietly for the good of the village with an eye to the future but also a nod to the past.

Thanks also to anyone else who has supported us over the last year and special thanks to the Concert at the King's contributions which have enabled our projects to get off the ground.

Thanks again to our new clerk Kate, many thanks to our outgoing clerk Jim Scott who gave us many years of service, and of course the councillors and all volunteers who make the Parish what it is today.

A Gray, Chair