**ANNUAL AGM PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

It’s a year now since the council elections which saw three longstanding councillors step down and new ones in the form of Tracey Colchester and Paula Slater join.

A lot has happened in this year. We regrettably said goodbye to our new chair Liz Whale / Auty due to work commitments but were pleased to hold on to Lydia as the clerk.

In terms of achievements in this time, I think it has been very positive and with continued efforts the Council’s focus on developing greater interaction with the residents and improving the environment within the village it is hoped that more people within the village will be encouraged to get involved in some way or form.

In no particular order, the achievements over the last year worthy of note include:

1. Changing the meeting venue to The Mill House so that it is back in the village and much more accessible to villagers.
2. The setting up of various groups open to everyone within the village including the Green Saxtead environmental group, a regular book club, walking group and Ladies Drinks event in the Mill House and the continuation of the Coffee Caravan visit.
3. The very well received and helpful Thermal Imaging of households within the village
4. A second successful litter pick throughout the village which is now planned throughout the year along with other planned events including an upcoming vintage car rally and a car boot sale.
5. The start of the tidying up and improvement of signage within the village with the first phase being the removal of old fly posters and the dilapidated Fram Castle sign.
6. Agreeing the speed reduction works and budget contribution so these works can go ahead.
7. The circulation of our now regular village newsletter
8. Greater interaction with Pembroke Uni where the PC has taken a more pro active approach to developing this important relationship
9. Additional seating to be provided on the main green and a new PC Noticeboard for the main green with the one at Little Green / Chapel Rd having a long overdue refurbishment.

All of the above paints a very positive picture, my only concern being that the vast majority of these achievements have fallen on only a few and I fear if this continues we will not only lose momentum but also possibly the people kindly volunteering their time and so one of the main priorities I think we have to focus on this coming year is expanding the number of people prepared to help out. It will make it much more manageable for all concerned and will make it a lot more fun which is as important as getting it done.