**Chairman’s report**

Good evening and welcome everyone to the 2017 West Wratting annual Parish Meeting.

Since the last meeting there have been several changes in the membership of the council. Rupert Snow stepped down from the council and we have a new councillor this year, Tim Bonfield.

As you can see from the Agenda the Parish Council holds a large number of properties and lands in the village, some of them small, two noticeboards, benches etc. and some of them very, large, including the Sports Pavilion and village hall.

Over the last year the parish council has taken the step again of increasing the precept by the cost of inflation. It is important to note that it is recommended that the council hold at least a year to a year and a half’s full precept in reserve. As can be seen from the accounts we are close to 80% of this higher reserve figure. Over the past year there have been a number of emergency tree works that have been required which as many of you who have had to have this type of work done in their properties can prove costly. Works have also been required on the children’s playpark and it is therefore essential that the amount available for such emergency or crucial work is available.

To continue our works on improving the safety of pedestrians and other residents in the village the parish council has again been successful with a bid to the Highways local improvement fund. Together with the promise of generous contributions from local residents and the parish council we are working up a plan to introduce 40mph limits further out from the existing 30mph village speed limits to improve road safety.

Cllr. Holness is providing valuable liaison with the Sports Pavilion committee just as Cllrs Okenhaug and Nichols provide on the Village Hall committee. Cllr Causton has also secured funding for improvements to the children’s play park which ensure we did not have to dig too deeply in the parish reserves.

I would also like to thanks Simon Anderson for continuing to cut the grass and Colin McCall for his tireless efforts as footpath officer and litter picking crew warden.

It is the view of myself as Chairman and also the membership of the parish council that by engaging positively on a one-to-one basis with all groups active in village life we can greatly improve the lives of everyone living in West Wratting.

The Parish is known in wider district circles as “one that gets things done”. I hope that we can as a group continue to make this so over the next 12 months.

Campbell Ross-Bain – Chairman.