**Chairman’s report – 14th May 2018 – West Wratting Parish Council**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 2018 West Wratting annual parish council meeting.

Since the last meeting there have been several changes in the membership of the council. Rachel Causton stepped down from the council and we have a new councillor this year, Sue Lock.

As you can see from the Agenda sheet 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.

Today the plan to introduce 40 mph limits further out from the existing 30 mph village speed limits to improve road safety in the village, has been completed This has been a long process involving a number of discussions with Highways, but we have now got pretty much what we originally desired.

The Parish also entered into an agreement with other local parishes to invest in speed indicator devices. These have been purchased and will be shared between a number of councils. I would like to thank Cllr Holness and Cllr Bonfield and Cllr Nichols for their work with the speed watch campaign in the village.

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 this higher reserve figure. However, we still have to pay our contribution to the speed limit works (£3000) and to provide two extra posts for the speed indicator devices to fit on. Works will also be required on the children’s playpark and it is therefore essential that the amount available for such emergency or crucial work is available.

Cllrs Holness and Cllr Roberts are providing valuable liaison with the Sports Pavilion Committee just as myself and Cllr Nicholls provide on the Village Hall Committee.

It is the shared view of the membership of the parish council that by engaging 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. To this end a liaison group is now meeting with village members and members of the football club looking at ways to improve communication to provide mutually beneficial outcomes.

I would like to thank Simon for continuing to cut the grass and Cobby for his tireless efforts as footpath officer and litter picking crew warden.

Lastly I would like to thank Jenny Richards our Parish clerk for her valiant work over the last year and her seemingly endless supply of patience with us in what has been a very difficult year for her personally. Please accept a small token of our gratitude.