Carol.

West Itchenor Parish Council 12th January, 2015

Brief Reports under item 8. , from 10th November 2014 until 12th January 2015. - Cllr M Chater

Attended on 10.11. Benefice Staff Full Team Meeting to review provision at the three Parish Churches and **changes in service provision at West Itchenor, with review of local needs..**

Attended Talk , 13/11, by Andrew Prost CDC on Chichester Local Plan. 14/11 Attended Itchenor Society AGM and informative Talk on Tangmere Airbase. In the process of confirming elections Mrs Alexandra Webb was welcomed back into office as Chairman.

Meetings of Local Government Organisations - Notable trend for Local Authorities to work in partnership with adjacent counties in provision of some public services. Some desire to restore regional forms of co-operation and provision.
NALC National Council focussed on developmental review within the organisation and conversations with the Minister, LGA and County Officers.
Government has eased the process for forming Parish Councils. With current national economic situation there are still concerns about financing the capacity for first tier local government to support needy local initiatives without clearer access to resources. An emergency motion has been sent to Government calling on it to act in relation to some billing authorities who had not passed on council tax support. The Minister Kris Hopkins MP, Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, is also writing to failing Authorities.

AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex) Concern at National Cuts affecting work with rural communities. Petition available in January, 2015.

Recent Update to WSCC/SSALC/AirS Joint Safer, Stronger & Resilient Communities Conference at Southwater Leisure Centre . Director of SSALC now following up discussions with SWSCC
- Reminder, recently Presided at above Sussex Councils Conference Jointly with Lionel Barnard, Cabinet Member for Resident Services,WS County Council and as sequel to success of Boxgrove Joint Conference. County Council Officers ably contributed a review of services and Community Bodies provided a rich range of successful local programmes and initiatives. Parish and SALC Staff excelled in preparing arrangements for the day.

SERCAF Conference and Committee Meetings. Southern Inter County Meeting to co-operate on local government initiatives, pool experience and prepare an approach to national proposals.Focus increasingly on alerting Parish Councils to potential for local initiatives and preparing Councillors and the Community for the May 2015 Elections. Area issues such as Policing and the proposal for an additional runway at Gatwick have had Executive Debate with the Authorities and opinion shared with the consulting powers to minimise impact on travellers and local residents.

National/ Sub Regional Developments. Changes in face of local government and continuing process of localism but severe financial cuts affecting range of services. Commitment to parishing with extended powers.
The new Local Council Award Scheme will be launched on 6th January, replacing the Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme. Entitled Parishes, such as ours, can apply for automatic transition at no costs, with a view to considering the Quality Gold Award subsequently. Attended the National Association of Local Councils, inLondon, on 9th December, as a Vice President, to monitor elections and share in consideration of policy in relation to arising local government issues.
Manhood Issues - MPP - District & County Council, Community and Key Agency. Apologies 8th Dec., last Meeting of year, but initiatives being drafted up for MPP Joint Operating Principles and also a Manhood policy on Flooding strategy. N.b.Operation Watershed Funding available through community bids. - Exchanged correspondence in relation to securing review strategy for identification of the viability of the Peninsula environmental features for future generations.

Birdham School Governors Meeting and School Events and End of Term Service on 19th December. Also Chaired Performance Review of Headteacher on 25th November. Team Meeting with associate HMI in attendance.- Excellent leadership recorded for Mark McCadden , Headteacher, and the efforts of the Staff team in the challenging time of educational and organisational change.

M.C.