



# BURSLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Annual Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2015/16 Annual Report of Bursledon Parish Council,

This year has been a real year of change and challenges and this is going to continue into the next year. The Council has had to make some very difficult decisions under very difficult circumstances.

The Council has 12 elected members and in May 2015, the whole of the Council was up for re-election and as a result we saw some of councillors choose not to stand and some not get re-elected these include Councillors Ron Nichols, Ernie Stubbs and Trevor Clark, At the same time the Council welcomed three new Councillors Friar Burgess, Mark Garratt and Sarah Hartley.

At the same time, we started the new year without a Parish Clerk and for the first 7 months of this year we were supported by a locum clerk, who was given the remit to review the Council's administration and operational structures to improve the Council's efficiency and effectiveness.

During the year we have continued to work closely with our local police officers to make our community safer, and have once again contributed to a shared parish fund to provide community support officers. I am pleased to tell you that the council has now agreed to continue the funding for another three years.

Our young people are an important part of our community and on the instructions of the Parish Council I have personally been undertaking a review of the youth services provided in the area and in particular with regard to HYPE. The future funding of our youth services is under threat as Hampshire County Council is seeking to reduce its funding for this service. The services have been secured up until September 2016, when it is hoped we will hear the decision of the County Council.

During the year, we have started undertaking quarterly inspections of areas with Eastleigh Borough Council, Housing Associations and the Police. We have started in the Pilands Wood Estate and are hoping to expand these inspections to other areas of the village.

The Council has responded to a number of consultations which will have impact on services including, Library services, fire services, the local plan and the Hampshire County Council Boundary Review.

The Lowford Community Library has been a very successful project which is all down to the efforts of the local volunteers who give their time and enthusiasm free to the community. Up to April last year the success of the library was being used as an example to show other Councils how to operate a successful community library.

However, it is unfortunate that we now find ourselves in difficult times as our landlord does not agree with our understanding of a successful community library or the Council's understanding of the terms of the lease. The Council has been trying to explain its case since November 2015, and where we agree that we can identify issues or any breaches of the lease we have done so. However, in January 2016 on returning to the offices the landlord had served the Council with a section 146 notice. After taking legal advice, we addressed any issues which we were legally required to do under the lease. It is now a very sad position that the Council has had to set aside £10,000 of public money to put our case through the legal process as our landlord has now locked us out of the premises.

The Council is still seeking to resolve this situation and to return an effective library service to the community of Bursledon.

In the meantime, your councillors are still available to you and the Council staff are available at the Pilands Wood Centre Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00 and the GAF Centre of Wednesdays 10:00 to 12:00. The Council can still be contacted through e -mail and its usual telephone number.

2016/17 will be a challenge, but your Council will still work to get the best for the residents of Bursledon.