**Annual Report CSG Parish Council 2018**

Firstly I would like to compliment all our councillors for their continual and loyal support. We continue to work together as a good and friendly team as well as our Parish Clerk who carefully watches over us all.

 I need to give particular thanks to John our Vice Chairman and also our clerk Cathryn who have done an amazing job over this last year. As you know my husband Larry died very suddenly and unexpectedly last August and they stepped in immediately to help me do my job as well as their own so that the Parish Council did not suffer in any way while I have tried to come to terms with my considerable loss. I have not been able to achieve all that I had planned for this last year but with their help and support our Parish Council has stayed on course and is in a very healthy state.

We have one new councillor – Cllr Alan Marks to our team. Alan has completed 2 courses already & his Chapter 8 training qualifies him for a number of important areas in our expanding remit.

Our 2 new County Councillors -Cllr Sara Randall- Johnson and Cllr Ray Bloxham are being most helpful and attend our monthly meetings when possible. This is greatly appreciated and augments our areas of available expertise together with our continued support of our District Councillor Mike Howe who has always been a mine of information to us. All round this is making our Council much more effective & efficient.

Regrettably our precept increased this coming year as our obligations increase due to Government cuts. The trend is that the Parish Council is expected to assume more responsibility for much more verge, gulley and drain maintenance as well as pothole and minor repair work on minor lanes etc. However it is still below that of comparable Parishes.

We are very aware that we are handling public money and are most prudent to make sure that we get the best value in everything we do. We are also through the diligence of our clerk and vice chairman[again] exploring all avenues to supplement our precept with available grants wherever we can find them. This is helping to balance public expectations and the money available.

Our communication with the public is improving, we are expanding our website and I publish a small monthly article in the Clyst Valley News to raise public awareness

We are also represented by dedicated councillors on a number of local organisations and we are looking to expand these further in the coming year.

We facilitated a Housing Needs Survey last year which showed that we had no increased need in our Parish.

We are also active in commenting on and watching any movement in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan as this could have a considerable effect on our area when agreed.

Reports from other organisations in the Community follow. Thank you.

 Maureen Ackland-Smith