Chair's Report for Bow Brickhill Parish Council Meeting to be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 12 July 2018

Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation of Ann Sidgwick, a vacancy still remains to be filled on the Parish Council. We have, over the past few weeks, redoubled our efforts to advertise it in a less intimidating way and, with apologies to the late Douglas Adams, have put up a new poster, outlining the application process in "big, friendly letters."

Parish Clerk/RFO/Pavilion Manager

On 7 June, I received an email from Tessa Taylor, giving one month's notice to terminate her position as Parish Clerk/RFO/Pavilion Manager. Imagine my surprise, therefore, when I received a text from her early on the morning of 14 June, telling me she had left our employ with immediate effect and would not be joining us for the meeting that evening.

Stepping into the breach, Becca Gurnett came to the meeting and took the Minutes, for which we owe her a debt of gratitude.

After sifting through the pile of application letters that remained after the process of appointing Tessa, it became clear that we faced an uphill struggle to find a reliable Clerk, committed, experienced and able to start immediately.

After a couple of very tense days, my husband Tony stepped up to the plate and offered to take on the job. This suggestion was warmly accepted by my fellow Councillors via e-mail. Bringing a lifetime of experience and skills to the role, he's manfully scaling the steep learning curve with good humour and enthusiasm.

Plan:MK Inspector's Examination – South Caldecotte

Back in December 2017, when we submitted our objections to the Draft Plan:MK, we indicated that we would like, if possible, to speak at the Inspector's Examination Hearings on issues with the Plan that have an impact on the village.

Sue Malleson has agreed to speak on our behalf on the subject of the proposed Employment Site known as South Caldecotte at the session this Friday 13 July. Good luck, Sue, and thank you.

Picnic Area

The new picnic tables have now been delivered and assembled, and delivery of the benches is anticipated over the next week or so. It was no easy task to assemble these heavy items in yesterday's unrelenting heat, but we did it! Thanks are due to Andy Wright, Tony, Tim Holden and Ross Ford.

Rebecca O'Rourke 12 June 2018