**ADDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Parish Meeting 18 May 2016**

**Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council**

It had been a busy year for the village, with the Tour de Yorkshire passing through, and a visit by the Prime Minister. Work continued with all village groups, and the parish council continued to help the Civic Society develop the Blue Plaque scheme. The cricket club nets seemed to be well-used and appreciated. The parish council was also continuing to support the Totally Locally campaign.

There had been a couple of sad events for the village during the year, with the uncertainty surrounding the future of Southfield House, where a decision was likely in July, and the fire at The Fleece. The parish council had heard that the pub might be due to re-open by the end of the year.

A number of important new initiatives had been introduced during the year, in the light of continued cuts to services provided by Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The parish council had taken on responsibility for the public toilets at Sugar Hill, and a village lengthsman had been appointed to look after them as well as the general upkeep of the village. This was proving very beneficial. The new allotment manager was also making his mark, with most plots now let out. Plans had been made for the construction of a new toilet block and storage area outside the Football Pavilion, and work would be starting on this shortly. The long-awaited refurbishment of the community library was also expected to begin shortly, subject to the receipt of grant monies from WREN. Discussions were ongoing with Highways as regards traffic safety and parking issues in the village.

In fact, the parish council had a full list of ongoing issues to deal with, including work on emergency planning in the aftermath of the floods last winter. The Neighbourhood Plan was being developed by a steering group of councillors and village volunteers, and was making progress as far as was possible, as Bradford continued to develop the district-wide Local Plan. A number of other ongoing issues, such as the possible provision of new grit bins, and plans for the Xmas lights switch-on this year, were to be taken forward by committees and working groups, which were to be re-structured by the council during its annual meeting. A new working group was to be set up to look at communications matters: although a number of improvements had been made with the new Facebook page, and regular updates to the website, more work needed to be done in thinking further about the village guide and newsletter.

Finally, thanks were due to the outgoing Clerk, Michelle Holland, and to the Beer Festival, who had provided a donation to the parish council to be put towards the costs of improvements to the Hen Pen garden area.