PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIR REPORT MAY 2017

My last annual report highlighted the three major issues which had affected the Parish during the year, namely flooding, broadband and the proposed United Utilities pipeline and associated works.

Fortunately there has not been a major storm during the last year however the parish council is doing its best to ensure that the appropriate authorities and land owners meet their responsibilities with regard to maintaining gullies, drainage and watercourses.

Fibre superfast broadband is now available in Redmain and Blindcrake, and after considerable delays the majority of householders wishing to upgrade to superfast have been connected. The parish council have entered into a community fibre partnership with BT to provide fibre broadband to Sunderland and have committed the expenditure of £2,500 to BT/Openreach for a detailed survey. Once this survey has been competed we will be working with BT to establish the most economical way of providing fibre broadband to Sunderland. Your parish council is still seeking ways to obtain improvements to the broadband service to Isel and Old Park.

The first contracts have been awarded in connection with the United Utilities pipeline, and both representatives from United Utilities and their contractors will continue to attend parish council meetings in order to keep residents informed of the progress of the works and to address any concerns raised.

The parish council has expressed concern to both Allerdale and the National Park over the lack of consultation on planning applications both within the parish and where an application outside the parish has an impact upon land or properties within the parish.

May I remind residents that parish council meetings are open meetings and that time is always set aside for members of the public to raise any issues that they may have relating to parish council business.

Finally I would like to thank the other parish councillors and the clerk for their work and dedication over the last year.

Andy Prickett