**Chairmans Report**

This has been a very difficult and challenging year for me and some other councillors who have had to deal with personal attacks in person and on social media from an individual who is not a resident of the parish. This has taken up a lot of valuable time for the office staff and the Councillors involved that could have been put to better use on other issues.

I would like to thank all the Councillors who dedicated so much time and effort in trying to prevent the Lidsing Garden Development being put forward on the Local Plan. Special thanks to Cllr Bob Hinder who voted against his party whip to stand opposed to the development. Sadly all the work was in vain and the Local Plan was passed on the 20th March with the Lidsing proposal still included. It is now our intention to get the best possible outcome for residents as the plans progress through the next stages.

We formed a new Woodland Management Committee to look after all the trees in the parish. The main focus of this Committee has been setting up the management plans and way forward for the Walderslade Woodlands and looking at the investment of the enabling fund to provide an income for its care in perpetuity. This Committee is led by Cllr Heidi Bryant who is doing a lot of work with the Community Beat Officer to look at ways of stopping nuisance motor bikes and quad bikes and problem dogs. I would like to thank the Walderslade Woodland Group for the outstanding job they do on maintaining the woodland and carrying out inspections of problem trees. They have all worked incredibly hard on helping us meet our legal requirements.

Many thanks to the hard working members of our Committees who give their time and expertise in helping to make the Council run efficiently. A new Committee formed this year is the Personnel Committee which focuses on personnel issues easing the workload on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and allows for more speedy resolutions. We’ve also formed a Long Term Investment Working Group.

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for their attendance and input and a special welcome to our new members who’ve joined us this year.

I would also like to thank all of our community volunteers. The trustees/management committees of Grove Green Hall, Weavering Village Hall and Sandling Village Hall. The management committee and trustees of vinters valley nature reserve. The volunteer groups, Friends of Weavering Heath, Boxley Village Society, Friends of Boxley Church. I would also like to thank every volunteer who litter picks in the parish. All of these wonderful people make Boxley Parish a nicer place to live.

Finally a very big thank you to our office staff who have had a very trying year but have come through it with flying colours.

It has been a privilege to serve as your charman this last year but I will not be putting my name forward for the coming year.