***The Chairman's Report for 2014/15***

In this past year the parish council has met on 12 occasions for their regular monthly meeting and held one special meeting to consider planning applications. The average attendance by councillors has been 75%.  
The year has again been dominated by planning applications for housing. Briefly the current state of affairs is as follows:  
- *Cemex sites north and south of Napton Road*. This was supported by many people in the village as the “least worst" of the current applications and was approved by Stratford Planning Committee. It is anticipated that the sites will be sold to a developer once legal matters have been resolved with Stratford. A full planning application with details of road layouts, housing design and housing mix will have to be submitted. The parish council was very disappointed that Warwickshire Highways chose to ignore our case for traffic calming at the junction of Station Road to slow down traffic entering the village. Also Stratford ignored our case for the play areas on both sites to be fully kitted out by the developer.  
*- The Persimmon application on The Hill* went to public enquiry in April following the refusal of permission by Stratford Planning Committee. The parish council presented its written objections to the inquiry.  
*- The Taylor Wimpey application north of Sycamore Close* is now going to appeal this summer following refusal of permission by Stratford Planning Committee. The parish council will continue to voice its objections.  
*- The planning application for 25 homes on the scout field* has been submitted but has not yet come before the planning committee.

Two smaller sites were approved at the *Barley Mow* for conversion to six apartments and at *No.1 High Street* for demolition of the bungalow and replacement with 5 detached houses. No work has commenced on either site yet.

One other approach was made by *Rosconn for land north of Tuckwell Close*. The parish council detailed its concerns to Rosconn and they agreed to undertake a public consultation exercise at some stage in the future.

*The 17 homes at Jubilee Fields* have finally come to fruition after 10 years of hard work by the parish council. The 12 affordable homes have all gone to people who live in the village or have strong local connections.

All this activity on the planning front has highlighted the need for the parish council to find a way to communicate more speedily with its parishioners and so a Facebook page has been developed for communicating urgent news. The parish council website continues to be well used.

Vandalism has been an ongoing problem at the playing field with major damage inflicted to the youth shelter and continual damage to the wooden fence around the children's play area.

Looking forward to this coming year I would suggest that the main tasks for the parish council (apart from ongoing efforts over planning applications) will be  
- repairing damage to the village green caused by heavy lorries  
- preparing the cemetery extension for use in the next couple of years.  
- putting forward ideas for the creation of a Memorial Green on land at Glebe Close that would be a tribute to those people from the village who fought for their country in World War I and after, particularly those who died as a result.  
- developing the parish councils policies and procedures so that it can qualify for the new Local Council Award Scheme.

This year will be the first year since about 2009 that we have increased our precept, which is the money that Stratford collect on our behalf. This increase has been purely to reflect the extra costs of grounds maintenance and street lighting at Jubilee Fields and should be balanced out by the additional houses.

As always I would like to pay tribute to my fellow councillors for their help and support over this difficult 12 months and also to the parish clerk, Mr Robinson. I would particularly like to thank Steve Kittendorf who is stepping down as both a parish and district councillor for the past 5 years and would also like to welcome Terry Warner as a new parish councillor. I would also like to recored my appreciation of the work done by Mick Childs and Dave Stanley who work hard to keep our village neat and tidy.