**The Chairman’s report 23.05.2018 i.**

**Work of the Council:** May I remind you that all of what the Town Council does in terms of conducting its business is available on the TC Website.

some of the highlights from the past year are…..

The Town Council as statutory consultee to the local planning authority, have responded to thirty various planning applications this year. well as consultations on various tree orders and notifications of enforcements cases.

We have received the freehold transfer of ownership from North Dorset District Council for the Station road car park and adjacent open land. The allotments land behind Pond Walk is now completed and transfer of ownership provides assets and certainty to our Town.

During 2017/18 The Community Library celebrated its 5th birthday and the Community Information Team have enhanced their desk service, more of which you will hear about in their reports. All of those Volunteers are to be congratulated for the excellent service they offer our community and for maintaining the volunteer numbers it takes to facilitate these valuable resources.

The Town Council is pleased to support the excellent Community web site Stalbridge.info. Average page views per Month Sept 17 to May 18 is 41,104
Average unique visitors per Month Sept 17 to May 18 is 13,951, these statistics bear out what a valuable resource the site is for Community events and Stalbridge Business people, all of whom have a free listing.

Thanks to John Fieldhouse for all his hard work. If you have any up and coming event make sure you make use of this great site.

The very end of the year saw the construction of new play equipment at Jubilee Play Area. Whilst the inclement weather during the construction period has meant that the ground surface has taken longer to recover, we are glad to have been able to open the area last weekend, whilst some areas of ground have been cordoned off to allow the surface to recover further.

**Finance of the Council:**

The Council has set its precept of £109,500, resulting in an increase in charge per month on a band D property of 32 pence, for the Town Council’s part of the Council Tax bill. Of the capital reserves from the bequest to the Town Council and sale of 8 Ring Street the unallocated balance stands at £5,119.03.

The Council continues to provide street cleansing, Free Parking and public conveniences, and maintenance of open spaces.

During 17.18 the Town Council made general grant contributions of :

£1,895.84 to the Playingfields Trust for insurance and ongoing costs.

£1,500 to the Youth Club to meet some of their running costs.

£3,200 to St Marys Churrh for graveyard grass cutting.

£315 to Life Education Wessex for Primary School visits

& £34.00 to the History Society for Town Trail Publicity .

**Thanks from the Council:**

Farewell to Diana Hine:

Danny Hine, is a long standing member and contributor to Stalbridge, what Danny brought was a knowledge and a passion for her manor.

For many years Danny served as Town Clerk under countless chairmen, in recent years Danny joined the TC as a Councillor, gamekeeper turned poacher, or is it the other way around, I don’t know.

For those of you who know Danny, will be aware of her ongoing health problems, and for this reason Danny tendered her resignation in April, feeling unable to perform her duties to the town 110% as she always did.

I have no doubt, Danny will still take a keen interest in everything we do, all be it from behind keyboard. And I know Tracey & I value her considerable knowledge on all things Stalbridge

I should like, on behalf of the Town Council to record our thanks to Danny Hine, for the many years of service she has given to Stalbridge, and to say her individuality will be missed. Danny’s resignation leaves a casual vacancy on the Town Council for the remainder of the Council Term should you wish to nominate yourself for Election for that 9 month period please see the Clerk.

Thanks to Ken Brown who looks after the planters at the Cross as a community volunteer.

It should be recorded that, All Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers, who give up their time to serve the community, doing their best in their endeavours, and, yes, sometimes on occasions we might get it wrong; but we are only human after all.

Finally, this year I would like to invite any Town Councillors who wish to report on matters which they have had involvement in the past year

 Graham Carr-Jones

Chairman Stalbridge Town Council