

Madam Chair.
Fellow Councillors.
Rosemary, Julie, & Lauren.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of myself and Andy at your Annual Parish meeting.

It's been somewhat of a frustrating year with issues around the borough, and their approved granting of planning permissions due to the lack of a five-year land supply. Whilst we are hoping that the new local plan will address some further applications in the future for the whole of the borough.

Both Andy & I have had to deal with a couple of very sensitive cases, and we have managed to find more suitable homes for their family needs. We still have many residents within the village who will need further support going forward. We hope that we have put the mechanism in place to help these vulnerable people to achieve a better standard of living.

On a note both Andy & myself have been proud to have been your Borough Councillors over the years, but it's time for us both to say goodbye and move on to ventures new.

Andy and his wife Wendy are getting married in July and hoping to enjoy a happy retirement in Norfolk. Contrary to what you may have heard I have not been chosen as one of the bridesmaids, thank God. I intend to start easing up on work and spend some quality time with both my adorable grandchildren, and quality time with my wife Lori going forward.

On reflection on the work that our office staff have achieved, it can only be described as outstanding. The courtesy all the ladies have shown to our village people and offered advice has been welcomed by both Andy & me. Rosemary can only be described as a huge benefit to Sibley Parish Council and the many residents within our village. When typically, a bill is presented to the council Rosemary comes into full action. What!!! We are not paying that amount and then the negotiations take place, I certainly wouldn't want to be on the other end of that conversation. Julie AKA Miss Marples, doesn't miss a trick on her surveillance skills and the ability to deal with sometimes difficult situations. Then we have the lovely Lauren, a relatively new member who works amazingly in her role, as well as being a full-time mother. So, it's a big thank you from both Andy & me.

Then we move on to our wonderful Chairperson Julie, always conducts meetings in a structured manner, and chairs the meetings accordingly to the rules and regulations set out in-law.

Fellow councillors do an amazing and sometimes frustrating job but still keep smiling. The vision of the Parish Council and what it wants to achieve in terms of making Sibley a nice safe place to live has to be applauded, please keep up all your good work.

Then we have our County Councillor Richard, he can only be described as Mr Reliable who never gives up and pursues every avenue to achieve the goals. How he has not blown a fuse over the MUGA Saga God only knows, he has been truly invaluable to both Andy & myself over the years. Good luck in your retirement as a Borough Councillor, but still maintain your dedication to our County Council.

Both Andy & I wish the new prospective Borough Councillors all the best in the coming elections.

Regards Andy & Paul.