

**Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee – Annual Report 2017 - 2018**

Following agreement at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 8 May 2017 the Amenities Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee were merged for a 12 month trial period, which to date has proved successful.

The Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee comprises 7 members who have previously served on either, or both, of the two separate committees.

As well as considering all administration matters including Council policies, financial accounts, assessment of charges, budget control and staffing matters, the newly formed committee now considers all areas previously dealt with by the Amenities Committee, including allotments, cemetery matters, recreation grounds and play areas.

The Ash Parish Council Village Fete took place on Saturday 15 July 2017 and was well attended. There was a wide range of stalls and displays representing many charities and local organisations and the return of the much enjoyed Ferret Racing. The Love Crew from 96.4 The Eagle broadcast live back to their studio during the first part of the day, giving the event wider publicity. Our thanks to the Dover Garage and Vale Furnishers for sponsoring our Village Fete. For once the weather was a little kinder than in previous years, adding to the success of the day.

The annual Ash in Bloom competition once again provided many amazing entries, certainly the keen gardeners within the Parish had gone to great lengths with their floral displays.

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday 12 November 2017, with the Parade being led by the Vice - Chairman of the Council, Cllr John Tonks, in the absence of the Chairman Cllr Nigel Manning who was on Mayoral duty in Guildford. The Colour Party was provided by the newly formed Ash Manor School Combined Cadet Force and the Service of Remembrance was conducted by members of the local clergy. Once again attendance at this Parade was extremely high and as always it was wonderful to see age groups across generations taking part and paying respects to those who had served their country during times of conflict. The unfortunate failure of the sound system, despite previous testing, will not be repeated as the Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee has agreed the purchase of a new external sound system!

Christmas Fantasia took place at the end of November and once again was extremely popular with many visitors attending the Christmas Fair in the Ash Centre before strolling down to the Wharf to join in with the Carol singing and to see Father Christmas switching on the Christmas Tree lights.

During a busy year the Committee have agreed, among many other matters, to the purchase of additional CCTV cameras, IT upgrades and IT security upgrades, the creation of a new Ash Parish Council website and essential works to the public conveniences in Ash Recreation Ground

Throughout the year, the Parish Council have continued a number of programmes to ensure our village remains one that we are all proud to live in.

As Chairman of the Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee I would like to thank all the Members of Ash Parish Council and the Parish staff for their commitment and support during this last year and in particular Cllr Laurence Armes who as Vice-Chairman of the Committee has chaired those meetings I have been unable to attend due to my other commitments as Leader of Guildford Borough Council.

Cllr Paul Spooner  
Chairman of the Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee