

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council



Annual Report 2017/18

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Introduction

The parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant is located in the Bourne Valley in North Hampshire. It lies in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty that makes up part of the North Wessex Downs. There are three centres of population made up of the village of Hurstbourne Tarrant, the hamlet of Ibthorpe and approximately half the village of Upton. It is a small rural parish consisting of 385 dwellings with 648 parishioners on the electoral register. In 2016, the estimated number of residents in the parish (adults and children) was 851.

Although there are several local businesses, there is no major centre of employment. Public transport is limited but the area contains beautiful scenery and offers many footpaths and bridleways. Most of the areas built on within the parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant are designated within a conservation area containing a high proportion of listed buildings including several thatched barns and cottages dating from the early to mid-17th Century.

Some of main parish facilities include:

- Village Church of St Peter's;
- Church of England Primary school – approximately 109 pupils (2018);
- King George V playing fields, the recently built Community Centre, and Parish car park;
- Convenience store, tea shop, part time veterinary surgery, florist, and clothing shop – located at 'The Old Workshops', The Dene
- Village public house – The George & Dragon;
- Hurstbourne Tarrant Royal British Legion.

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The Parish Council is a small body made up of 6 councillors and it meets every month. The parish council comes under jurisdiction of Test Valley Borough Council (unitary authority) which in turn is part of Hampshire County Council.

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For the financial year 2017/18, the council levied a precept of £14,850 pa (equivalent to £39.39 pa/household at band D rating) and on average year has an expenditure of approximately £16,500 pa. The council employs one person – a part time Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

The Parish Council does not operate any system of committees, given its small size; all business is transacted by the full Parish Council and occasionally working parties may be established to carry out specific project work. Each councillor has a portfolio of responsibilities which are assigned at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May.

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Elected Parish Councillors as at 16th May 2017

Ian Kitson (Chairman) – Portfolio: Allotments

Mark Thomas (Vice-chairman) Portfolio: Footpaths, Volunteering & KGV

Jamie Williams - Portfolio: Planning, Upton Village and Pill Heath

Louisa Russell - Portfolio: Hurstbourne Tarrant primary school liaison & play equipment

Mark Betteridge* – Portfolio: Transport, roads and road safety (CSW)

David Sullivan - Portfolio: Swifts

* Councillor Betteridge resigned at the December meeting in 2017. Councillor Ed Mills was co-opted in February 2018.

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Test Valley Borough Councillor

Bourne Valley Ward - Mr Peter Giddings – Conservative

16 Shepherds Rise, Vernham Dean, Andover, SP11 0HD

01264 737647, mobile: 07721 051832, email:

cllrpgiddings@testvalley.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor

Andover North Ward - Ms Kirsty Locke – Conservative

31 Cusden Drive, Andover, SP10 3TF

Mobile: 07868 981320, email: kirsty.locke@hants.gov.uk

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Parish Councillors' reports for 2017/18

Councillor Ian Kitson - Chairman's Summary & allotments

It has certainly been a busy and successful year for the Parish Council. I was both surprised and honoured to be asked to take on the role of Chairman last April, from our respected and long serving Chairman David Sullivan. I thank him for the guidance he has given to me throughout this last year.

We had the unenviable task of finding a successor for our almost as long-standing Parish Clerk, David Baker, who had decided to retire after more than 15 years with the council. Myself and the rest of the Parish Council have been very grateful to David for his subtle and wise guidance to the Council through numerous procedures and formalities! I have certainly learnt a lot from him. We were very fortunate to recruit Mims Edwards to the role of Parish Clerk in November, who most of the village knew beforehand, and she has taken on the new role with enthusiasm as well as studying for her Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification. Again, we are extremely grateful to David Baker for ensuring a smooth seamless hand-over as well the knowledge that advice is only a telephone call away!

We also said goodbye to Mark Betteridge as a parish councillor; a big thank-you to Mark for his work, especially persevering to obtain a second Speed Indicator Device. We subsequently welcomed Ed Mills to the Council, and for filling a long term aim of having a Councillor from Upton.

We have successfully completed several important projects this year, including fantastic new children's play area and climbing frame - the envy of many Parish Councils, and to the delight of our children. We have also installed a defibrillator outside the Rural Business Hub, purchased several benches, set up of the fantastic HBT Swifts social group, as well as starting regular Parish Newsletters, revising the Village Directory, holding open evenings on a variety of issues, as well as regular communication with our higher-tier councils on numerous

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important matters. We have also started a wildlife conservation group, and a village charitable fund.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our Parish Councillors and Clerks and the many regular helpers who, without their tireless work, our Parish would be a much poorer place.

On a personal note I would be totally lost in my role as Chairman without the help and guidance of Mims Edwards, our new Parish Clerk (Hampshire Constabulary's loss was our gain), and our brilliant "ideas" man, Councillor Mark Thomas.

And finally, I am pleased to inform you that our Parish allotments remain fully taken with several new parishioners enjoying the challenge of growing their own produce ... once the weather improved and spring finally arrived. Demand was such that we re-let what was a previously dormant plot.

Councillor Mark Thomas – Footpaths, Volunteering & KGV report

Our autumn and spring working parties have been well attended, despite the March snows which resulted in us having to reschedule our Spring Clean day. Residents of all ages turned out to help collect litter, tidy up verges, trim, prune and strim to keep our villages in top condition. The Parish Council is grateful to villagers in Hurstbourne Tarrant, Ibthorpe and Upton, together with our loyal band of coordinators and of course Test Valley Borough Council which helps us with the loan of equipment and ensures that rubbish is collected promptly following the working parties.

These seasonal events are supplemented by occasional maintenance to play equipment and footpaths around the Parish. Thank you to all Parishioners who get involved and we are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to help with Parish Maintenance and volunteers for our various projects.

Unfortunately, during the year, we lost access to some popular historic permissive paths through a change in ownership of local land. The Parish Council tried to negotiate continued use for the Community, but sadly this wasn't possible. We are very fortunate to

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have a wonderful collection of rights of way throughout the Parish and do our best to ensure these are maintained to ensure they can be enjoyed by all. I would like to thank local landowners for their cooperation, together with Hampshire County Council which assists us with advice and practical assistance with more significant maintenance tasks.

This annual report wouldn't be complete without mention of dog fouling! Whilst the vast majority of dog owners in the Parish are responsible, we do have some 'hot spots' where dog mess continues to be a problem. We have organised poster campaigns to politely remind people of their responsibilities and the location of the seven bins that are available for disposal and we will be looking at other ideas to continue to target the problem areas in conjunction with the TVBC Dog Warden.

Following consultation with the community, this year saw the formation of the HbeeT Wildlife Group to help improve biodiversity of our public areas. Initiated by the Parish Council, the group is now led by a separate Steering Group which has begun drawing up plans for several events and projects. This will include a guided bird walk with local ornithologist David Ellis on the 19th May and establishment of wildlife areas on Dene Green (kindly organised by Gary Edwards) and a corner of KGV Playing Field. These two initiatives will see the planting of nectar rich shrubs, installation of bird nest boxes and establishment of insect habitats and we are grateful to Councillor Ed Mills' business Living Walls for donating the plants. Later in the year the group is planning a wild flower walk with Peter Billingham and an evening lecture on bees.

Finally, on behalf of fellow Councillors and members of the community, I would just like to thank the Clerk for all she does to support our volunteer initiatives and to our Chairman Ian Kitson who stepped into a very big pair of 'Shepherd's Boots' taking over from David Sullivan. You are doing a great job Ian and we appreciate all you do to keep us on the straight and narrow and for the many additional hours you commit to your Parish duties and supporting the community.

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Councillor Jamie Williams - Planning report

To follow

Councillor David Sullivan – SWIFTS community group

I, along with Councillor Louisa Russell, have taken responsibility for ‘SWIFTS’, the community group that meets monthly in the community centre. We hope it will become a focal group that not only gives an opportunity for friendship and conversation but will be able to be a route to identify any particularly elderly people who may need assistance. We are exploring ways to provide help, say, with transport and appointments and general neighbourliness without bureaucracy and formal arrangements. We have tried to recruit a Village Agent, a formal position, without success, so are endeavouring to establish a less formal route. A note of any need to the Parish Clerk, Mark Thomas or myself would suffice.

The Flood Action Group led by Gary Edwards is active regarding the village drainage, but I am still working to prevent silt deposit into the main river from Dunstons Lane (opposite the pumping station on the Upton road). Councillor Ed Mills, who has access to suitable plant, has offered his assistance for which I am grateful.

I conclude by congratulating the Chairman and Vice Chairman for continuing the ‘can do’ attitude that has been a feature of the Parish Council for many years.

And on a personal note, I would like to thank Mr David Baker, the retiring Clerk, for being the power to my elbow and a good friend in the time I was Chairman. His expertise and procedural knowledge not only qualified us to be a Quality Council (now being superseded by the Local Council Award Scheme) but also kept me reasonably correct and out of trouble!!

Councillor Louisa Russell - Hurstbourne Tarrant primary school liaison & play equipment

The SWIFTS Social Group for residents of the Parish, which started in March 2017, has been running for just over a year now and continues

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to be a very popular initiative. The group meets on the second Monday morning of the month at the Community Centre with around 40 people regularly coming along to each session.

So, what does the acronym 'SWIFTS' stand for?

S Social - organising informal get togethers
W Welfare – watching out for people who may need help
I Independence - encouraging a network of local support
F Fun/Friendship - that's what the group is about
T Together - a community initiative
S Services - signposting services and agencies

And that's what Swifts is all about!

When it first started, those attending were asked what they would most like to happen at the sessions (e.g. just social, or occasionally incorporating talks from outside speakers about subjects of interest, demos of things like crafts, gardening and so on). By far the majority just wanted the opportunity to meet socially and chat with friends and neighbours from the village, and to meet those from the village that they had not met before – over coffee and cakes, in a nice warm and welcoming environment. And that has been the pattern since.

Since it first started, and at the suggestion of one of the attendees, a Book Exchange has been set up to enable people to borrow books brought in by people coming along to each session. David Sullivan occasionally brings in his trusty banjo and leads the group in a merry song or two and there are short announcements at each session to remind everyone of up and coming village events that might be of interest.

On the welfare/support side, Swifts widens the scope for people to volunteer a little help to support others in the village e.g. if someone is unwell, doing a little shopping, temporary dog walking; or gardening for them, or giving them a lift to the hospital, shops etc – something that of course already happens between neighbours.

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Financially, kind donors have paid for the hall hire up until the end of June 2018. Participants contribute £1 per person (or more if willing!) for coffee and cakes. These contributions are saved in a cash kitty which is ring-fenced for the Swifts group to re-invest into the cost of occasions such as the Christmas buffet lunch for the group held last year or for other possible initiatives - whatever the group thinks are a priority. As at April 2018, there was £141.20 in the kitty. It really is a community initiative which is going from strength to strength.

With regard to play areas, since the new equipment was installed, there has been very little work needed to keep things up to date. The annual safety inspections of all play areas are carried out each May/June and any recommendations by RoSPA are acted upon. The school have enquired as to whether temporary cricket nets could be sited on KGV, which could be used by everyone, but movable for events to take place on the field, so this is an initiative which could come to fruition in the near future.

As Mr Dee will be speaking at the Annual Parish Meeting, I have left all school updates for him this year, but we were delighted to see the installation of “Murdoch’s Cottage”, the half classroom funded by a donation from the late Mrs Dinah Murdoch’s estate, which will benefit all pupils.

Councillor Mark Betteridge – Community Speedwatch, road safety and highways report

The speed of traffic through Hurstbourne Tarrant continues to be a major concern to those living on or near to the A343 and to those whose children walk to the school. This has been exacerbated on numerous occasions by roadworks and issues on the A34 which increases traffic volume due to the Newbury Road being a natural diversion. This was highlighted in extremis when recent heavy snow, coinciding with a diversion from the A34 following a fatal accident, caused mayhem in the centre of the Parish and huge traffic jams both ways through Hurstbourne Tarrant. Parish Council members and others joined forces to assist, and eventually the route was cleared but it shows the vulnerability of HbT to this sort of problem.

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The solar powered Speed Indicating Device (SID) sign was joined by a second one facing the opposite direction in January 2018. This decision was based on the fact that at this time, there is no likelihood of the downgrading of the A343 through the village, nor restrictions on HGVs, so traffic calming and management in the interim was the only possible option. Both SIDs make a noticeable impression as observations are that most drivers do slow down, although, of course, there are a number who ignore the speed limit regardless. The rotational use of Speed Limit Reminder [SLRs] signs, which we share with other parishes, do have a beneficial effect, but to a lesser extent than the SIDs. Their use continues alongside our own measures.

Other speed mitigation safety projects installed over the last few years, namely the traffic islands, the pavement from the bus shelter to the shop and the extension to the pavement outside the school, continue to be effective and the wooden bollards are quite obviously doing their job to a certain degree but we all wish that the drivers would note that they are there and not keep knocking them over. There have been requests to HCC to replace the most recent demolition of a bollard but as yet, there has been no response. Vigilance and care from everyone is required to ensure safety especially at the main junction by the George & Dragon both day and night.

One of our main traffic issues is that of the passage of large lorries through the village. Up until now the distribution centre developers from the old Andover Airfield site (Goodmans) have been banned from allowing certain lorries along the A343 and other roads but this is, as I write, being heard at appeal as Goodmans try to wear down the objections and the councils' opposition by persistent appealing. Money is short to deal with these appeals at local government level. Fortunately, our MP, Kit Malthouse, is in agreement and is working hard to come up with some solutions.

Finally, a big vote of thanks to Rupert Conder for his continued energetic interest and assistance to the PC on the issue of road safety over the past years. He remains a stalwart and pillar of strength to the council despite not holding office, but it is important that his work is recognised, and we thank him for it.

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Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2018

by Miriam Edwards, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Parish Council's cash reserves stand at £16,224.93 (£5,301 as at 31st March 2017). Reserves are maintained to produce investment income and to fund capital projects.

See Table 1 Statement of Accounts, and Table 2 Bank Reconciliation, for more detailed information.

The precept in 2018/19 has had a small increase from £14,850 to £15,300. This is an increase of just over £1 per household. The precept increase is to cover lack of S106 monies in the future.

The Band D levy for Hurstbourne Tarrant for 2018/19 is set at £40.58 per household pa using the tax base of 377 dwellings and this approximates to a 2.9% increase in parish council precept, or £1.19 per household.

An additional £2,615 of VAT will be recoverable in 2018/19.

There will be an increase in staffing costs of £5,100 for 2018/19.

Table 1

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council			
Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2018			
Box		2016/17 £s	2017/18 £s
1	Balances Brought Forward	21,831	5,301
2	(+) Annual Precept	14,850	14,850
3	(+) Total other receipts	4,372	20,702
4	(-) Staff Costs	-2,628	-5,849
5	(-) Loan interest capital repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total other payments	33,125	18,779
7	(=) Balances carried forward	5,301	16,225
8	Total Cash	5,301	16,225
9	Total Fixed Assets	98,006	100,736
10	Total Borrowings	0	0

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Table 2

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council			
Bank Reconciliation			
Prepared by: Miriam Edwards (Clerk /RFO)			
Approved by: Ian Kitson	Date:	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
(Chairman of the Parish Council)			
Financial Year ending 31 March 2018			
		2016/17	2017/18
Balance Treasurers Account (00730337) per Bank Statement		1,000.00	1,000.00
Balance Instant Access (07150069) per Bank Statement		12,999.57	7,919.37
Balance 30 Day Notice (07210851) per Bank Statement		7,709.10	7,712.99
Outstanding Cheques as at 31 Mar		-16,408.00	-407.43
Outstanding Credits as at 31 Mar		0.00	0.00
Net bank balances 31 Mar		5,300.67	16,224.93
Opening Balance		21,831.47	5,300.67
Less debtors			
Add creditors			
Add: Receipts in the year to 31 Mar		19,222.09	35,551.89
Less: Payments in the year to 31 Mar		35,752.89	24,627.63
Closing Balance per cash book as at 31 Mar		5,300.67	16,224.93
	Total Cash 31 Mar	5,300.67	16,224.93

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Accounts were approved by our internal auditor Tammy King on 9th April 2018 and will be reviewed by PKF Littlejohn (external auditor) later in the year.

The Parish Council is grateful to Tammy King for giving her services free of charge in carrying out our internal audit of accounts which helps the Parish Council maintain lower costs.

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Base Budget Financial Year 2018/19

<u>Services</u>	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Deficit
King George V Field		1,100.00	-1,100.00
Dene Green		350.00	-350.00
Tennis Court		50.00	-50.00
Allotments	190.00	190.00	.00
Repairs & Maintenance		1000.00	-1000.00
Interest	10.00		10.00
Wayleaves	115.00		115.00
Sub-Total	315.00	2,690.00	-2,375.00
<u>Administration</u>			
Clerk		7,732.00	-7,732.00
Stationery & printing		500.00	-500.00
Insurance		750.00	-750.00
Audit		235.00	-235.00
Other expenses		1,900.00	-1,900.00
Sub Total	-	11,117.00	-11,117.00
<u>On-going projects:</u>			
Regular Donations		600.00	-600.00
Shared Speed Indicator Device annual charges		450.00	-450.00
Elections sinking fund		300.00	-300.00
Flood mitigation sinking fund		500.00	500.00
Unplanned new small projects		1,000.00	-1000.00
Sub-Total		2,850.00	-2,850.00
Totals	315.00	16,657.00	-16,342.00
Estimated VAT refund from 17/18	2,100.00		2,100.00
Precept in 2018/19	15,300.00		15,300.00
Base Budget Total	17,715.00	16,657.00	1,058.00
<u>New projects (High priority) 2018/19</u>			
Posts and railings in Church St (materials only) Labour £1500?		5000.00 1500.00	-6,500.00

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Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre 2017/18 (Susie Hoare, Chair, HTCC CIO)

It's hard to believe that the Centre is already in its third year of operation – and its proving to be even busier than in previous years!

In its first year of operation (1st July 2015 – 30th June 2016), the Centre had already proved to be a highly popular community venue for a wide variety of activities. Financially, it had been a very successful first year, with income above budget, expenditure on target, and reserve funds set aside. We were able to report at our second Annual Open Evening on 6th October, 2017, that we'd had an even more successful 2nd year of operation, with demand for hiring the hall far exceeding expectations (income up by a further 55% on year 1); and costs kept below budget.

In this, the third year of operation (1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018), the Centre is well on track in terms of forecast income and expenditure. We will be reporting on 'bottom line' facts and figures at our next Annual Open Evening on Friday, 19th October, as well as asking Parishioners for their views and suggestions on future activities at the Centre.

So, how's the Centre currently being used? An enormously wide range of events are being held at the Centre. For instance, village events such as the HbT GinFest; the Village Show; Harvest Lunches; theatre performances; and the HBT5 Race; HbT Primary School events (Summer Fayres, Car Treasure Hunt, Summer Productions, Christmas Markets etc); and an enormous variety of special occasion parties (christenings, birthdays, anniversaries, family gatherings, retirement celebrations; wakes etc); very many children's parties; wedding receptions; charity fund-raising events; workshops, talks and meetings – to name but a few.

And of course, as well as events, there are the regular activities which take place at the Centre, mainly on week days, offering a range of choices for a broad age group. Examples are children's dance sessions, the after-school club, parent & toddlers group, scouts cubs & beavers, Yoga and Pilates classes, table tennis sessions, the SWIFTS social & support group, HbT Historical Society meetings & talks,

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Parish Council and PCC meetings and from June, the new Messy Church sessions.

Sometimes, it's difficult to imagine how this rich variety of activities and events in the village could happen without the Community Centre!

Feedback from users of the Centre continues to be good. People particularly praise the high quality of the building and its facilities, its cleanliness and tidiness, its outlook onto the playing field, the ease of the booking process and 'excellent customer services'. That's very encouraging.

Behind the scenes, the nine Trustees of the Community Centre CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) volunteer a considerable amount of their time to manage and maintain the Centre on behalf of the village. May I take this opportunity to thank Trustees for their commitment and hard work in ensuring that the Centre is run efficiently and that standards are maintained.

A big thank you too to all those in the village who help with some of the operational aspects of the building, who participate with others to initiate and organise village events at the Centre, and who join in with the Parish working parties, for example, to tidy up the car park. Your help and support is very much needed and hugely appreciated – it makes such a difference. If you too can give a little of your time to help, we'd love to hear from you!

In conclusion, the Centre has rapidly become a popular 'hub' for the local community and is in good shape for the future. With the vital help of volunteers, it can continue to thrive and prosper for generations to come in the village.

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Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Dates for Parish Council meetings – May 2018 to Apr 2019

Date of meeting	Type of meeting	Venue and start time
21 May 2018	Annual Parish Council Meeting Note: 1	Community Centre – 6.00 p.m.
21 May 2018	Annual Parish Meeting Note: 2	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
18 June 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
16 July 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
20 August 2018	Parish Council	No meeting planned
17 September 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
15 October 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
19 November 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
17 December 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
21 January 2019	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
18 February 2019	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
18 March 2019	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
15 April 2019	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.

Note 1: The Annual Parish Council meeting must be convened within 14 days of the date of elections within an election year.

Note 2: The Annual Parish meeting is a meeting of the electorate

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Contact details for Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

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Mark Thomas	Vice-Chairman	01264 736456	councillor.mark.thomas@hbt.org.uk
Jamie Williams	Councillor	07977 077875	Councillor.jamie.williams@hbt.org.uk
Louisa Russell	Councillor	07891 243488	councillor.louisa.russell@hbt.org.uk
David Sullivan	Councillor	01264 736514	councillor.david.sullivan@hbt.org.uk
Ed Mills	Councillor	07809 105124	councillor.ed.mills@hbt.org.uk
Miriam Edwards	Clerk	01264 736677	theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk
Village and parish council website			www.hbt.org.uk

Any correspondence for the Parish Council should be addressed to:
The Clerk, Chestnut Cottage, The Dene, Hurstbourne Tarrant,
Andover, Hampshire, SP11 0AN
E-mail address: theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk

Attachments:

Parish Newsletter – December 2017
Parish Newsletter – May 2018
List of Achievements in 2017