

Malcolm Cochrane

MALCOLM COCHRANE stood down as Chairman of Shipton Parish Council in May after 11 years, and we would like to list some of his many achievements and to record our great appreciation and thanks for all he has done.

He was elected Chairman in 1988 after the untimely death of Terry Souch and at his first meeting asked councillors to consider the provision of a new village hall, a new burial ground and employing a lengthman.

The first two have been achieved; we did enjoy the services of a lengthman while it was possible, and Malcolm continued to pursue the street cleaning issue.

Highway problems, less glamorous but very important. The village is better served by two new stretches of pavement, from Gas Lane to Sinnels Field and from the Lamb Inn corner towards the cricket field. Extra street lighting and speed limit signs on the road surface were also obtained.

It is not only the achievements but the amount of effort and determination to solve problems, (including cutting back verges at dangerous junctions himself), which makes Malcolm so special.

He spent hours on the telephone chasing up the purchase of land behind the old Parish Hall from the brewery, which then changed hands and he had to start all over again! The hall in its final years was less damp thanks to all his efforts to obtain the land, allowing the soil to be removed from the wall.

When there were problems with some of the youths in the village, Malcolm worked hard to find a solution – talking to the youngsters to find out what they wanted – arranging public meetings with Douglas Hurd, our M.P. at the time, police and teachers.

He was responsible for the formation of the Senior Youth Club with part funding from WODC, and personally found many volunteers to help run it; he also supports the Junior Youth Club.

A low cost housing survey in 1990 identified a need in Shipton and the houses were completed in 1995.

We have also become a conservation area. The preliminary hard work done on an appraisal for the village showed Shipton to be a village that likes to tackle its problems as they are identified, rather than write a report on them!

The very patient skate-boarders will finally be rewarded with their equipment up and running by the time this magazine is published. Malcolm researched and visited other skate-board areas with the youngsters to make sure the right equipment was purchased and supported their cause on the Hall and Recreation Field Committee.

Malcolm has worked tirelessly for the village and most certainly left his mark.

We all thank you, Malcolm, and are very pleased that you still feel able to offer your wisdom and experience at Parish Council meetings.