

APPENDIX B – New Chairman’s Acceptance Speech May 2017 – Annual Meeting

Me being here is a bit of a turn up for the books!

So much so, that my wife and family seem to have foreseen tonight and made plans to escape - they are presently somewhere on a boat in the middle of the Bay of Biscay!

They may have a shock when their boat docks on Wednesday!

However, I can’t really say much more than what Andy put in his excellent report.

The importance of sound financial planning, a clear aim ahead, clear and meaningful communication and the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan cannot be under estimated.

I agree that Speedwatch too was very disappointing but I am more than pleased to hear there is now a way forward which I hope will soon be officially announced!

Everyone around this table have different backgrounds, different strengths and different ideas. We also have one thing in common that I think we always need to remember.

We are here not to represent ourselves but to represent Whitchurch.

At the Town Assembly Andy Jordan asked everyone to talk to each other - an admirable plea and one which is essential for a healthy community. Without that dialogue there can be no community. My aim will be to improve that - to ensure local residents know what we can do for them and how they can work best in partnership.

When we sit around this table it is therefore MORE than important to respect positions our fellow Councillors may take and express, for it is not individual opinion being presented but views they have gathered from the people of our town.

I believe we have a wonderful Council, supported by terrific Clerks, all committed to Whitchurch and the people who live here.

Lastly, I must thank Andy and Rebecca for leaving the Council in such a good stead which will make the next year so much easier.

Let us make Whitchurch even better than it already is!