

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council Annual Report 2017

This is the formal Annual Report of the Council's activities, given by the Chair, Cllr Liz Kelly, at the Annual Parish Assembly on 24th April 2017.

This is my second year in the role of Chair, so I'm starting to get the hang of it! The Parish Council remains the same as last year, as do the two District Cllrs, but we will shortly lose our County Cllr, Derek Lawson, who is standing down after serving on NCC for 40 years.

Now for some facts and figures:

There have been 11 formal council meetings since the last APA and 5 meetings of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Working Party.

The Parish Council considered 6 planning & licensing applications this year; down from 13 in 2015-16, and whilst all had been determined similarly by the East Northamptonshire Council, one has since been allowed on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

This has been another good year for grants, with awards both locally, from the District Council's Member Empowerment Fund for more litter picking kits, courtesy of Cllr Glenn Harwood, and nationally, from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for running the new website, plus purchasing a laptop and software. However, our largest grant was over £3,000 from the Big Lottery Fund, for the community celebration event we will be holding during the evening of the re-dedication of the 305th BG memorial next month.

We have gathered in the village hall every 2nd Monday of the month to debate and action:

- Potholes,
- Reported fly tipping,
- Repairs to ditches,
- Footpath clearance,
- Falling trees in storm "Doris"
- The continuous battle on dog fouling,
- Working with the Police Safer Community Team regarding substance abuse paraphernalia,
- Maintenance & repair of street lamps,
- Siding out of footpaths,
- Re-listing the Chelston Rise inner triangle amenity area as an Asset of Community Value,
- Arranging for the cleaning of the 305th BG memorial site,

.....to name but a few.

The Parish Council is financed through a tax (called the Precept) on each household which is collected by the ENC. It was decided to increase the Precept for 2017-18 from £10,200 to £10,400, but for a Band D property, the cost remains the same at 96p a week.

Moving away from the everyday life of a Parish Council, we had some events that will give us good standing for the future:

We arranged for the 58 street lamps in the parish to be inspected to ensure there were no nasty surprises, and in view of the continually rising energy prices, we have moved to a fixed price three-year deal with E-On.

The Council's website (www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk) had over 45,000 hits over the last 12 months. If you have a few minutes to spare I recommend taking a look, it provides lots of information not only about the Parish Council, but has links to other sites such as the village hall, the NDP Working Party and our parish history pages. We even added an "Advertising" page for villagers to sell their wares – it's free to use.

After over three and half year's hard work our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will finally be voted on by you on the 4th May. You'll hear more about this later in the meeting.

We have also set up an Events Committee, which I chair, made up of non-Cllrs who share a common aim to enhance the community spirit in the parish. Some of the Lottery funds are being used to buy assets such as a PA system and a marquee that we can use at future events.

I would now like to propose a vote of thanks to Cllr James Pentelow, who volunteers to cut the grass around the 305th BG war memorial during the year and keeps the site looking so well, and also to Raine Earnshaw and her WI colleagues for the refreshments that will be provided later this evening.

*Cllr Liz Kelly
Chair of the Parish Council.*

+++++

HOT OFF THE PRESS - THE NDP RESULT

For	225	82.2%
Against	28	11%
Turnout		55.1%

The NDP has passed the Referendum!

Parish Council Annual Report 2017

Finance for the year ending 31st March 2017 (*draft and unaudited figures*).

Starting with the headline figures -

Balance brought forward	£ 18,992.28
Receipts in year	£ 17,107.79
Expenditure in year	<u>£-13,510.66</u>
Balance carried forward	£ 22,589.41

The receipts were made up of -

Precept	£10,200.00	
Grants to the Council	£ 4,728.07	DCLG, NCC, ENC MEF, The Big Lottery.
Allotment receipts	£ 465.00	Rents, shed bonds and water contribution.
Bank interest	£ 7.14	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Donated by the Chair to pay my wages!
VAT (recovery)	£ 1,706.58	Claimed back from last year.

The Council calculates how much it needs in November for the next year and tells ENC the Precept amount in January. Then from April, it's collected from the residents as part of the Council Tax. There are approx. 230 houses in the parish, but some have discounts (e.g. single occupancy, etc), so the number paying was reduced to 204. This gave a typical Band D figure of £10,200 / (204*52) = 96.2p a week for 2016-17.

[For 2017-18, the Precept has increased to £10,400, but the number of contributing households has increased to 208, so for a typical Band D property the figures are now £10,400 / (208*52) = 96.2p a week].

The expenditure was -

Grass cutting	£3,102.50	Includes siding out footways.
St Lighting running costs	£2,244.90	Power for 58 street lights.
St Lighting repairs	£2,028.50	Includes testing the 58 street lights.
E-Government	£ 933.32	Includes new laptop/software funded by grant.
Gen Admin	£ 615.68	Includes litter pick kits funded by MEF grant.
Insurance	£ 531.52	
Allotment costs	£ 441.42	Lease, shed bond refunds and water.
Subscriptions	£ 395.11	SLCC, Northants CALC
Local Plans/NDP	£ 368.00	
Stationery/Printing	£ 238.35	
Village Hall hire	£ 229.00	Council meetings and the APA
Grants	£ 175.00	WI and the Summer Show 2016.
Annual audit	£ 154.00	
Training	£ 108.00	
Recreation	£ 52.02	Green waste bin for 305 th BG grass cutting.
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the Chair.
VAT (recoverable)	£1,892.34	To be claimed back next year.

The Council owns the 305th BG memorial site, and the allotment site is leased from a farmer.

2015-19 Parish Council Members & Officers

Chair: Liz Kelly, 8 Duchy Close.
Vice: Ray Daniells, *Fieldview*, Raunds Rd.
Glenn Harwood MBE, 7 Britten Close.
Jennifer Harwood, 7 Britten Close.

James Pentelow, 22 Duchy Close.
Andrew Seaman, *Rosemoor*, Raunds Rd. **Melvyn Wooding**, *Melrose Cottage*, Caldecott. **Clerk:**
Mark Hunter *Ashbury*, Caldecott (626039).

E-mails to the Council on Clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk