

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council Annual Report 2018

This is the formal Annual Report of the Council's activities, given by the Chair, Cllr Ray Daniells, at the Annual Parish Assembly on 23rd April 2018.

This is my first year in the role of Chair, having succeeded Liz Kelly in May last year. I'm also the first Chair to wear the Council's badge of office, following its donation by our Clerk to mark his 15 years' service to the Council.

The Parish Council has one new face, Patricia Mommersteeg, who joined us in September following Glenn Harwood standing down from the Parish Council after he won the vacant County Council seat last May.

Sadly, as we know, Glenn suddenly passed away in November and the parish lost a great friend and champion. This created vacancies on both the District and County Councils, so I am pleased to welcome Harriet Pentland as our new District Cllr (along with Pam Whiting) and Jason Smithers as our new County Cllr.

Now for some facts and figures:

There have been 11 formal meetings since the last APA, and in the Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum in May 17, 82% of voters voted in favour, resulting in it being formally adopted by East Northamptonshire Council.

The Parish Council considered 13 planning & licensing applications this year; up from 6 in 2016-17, and all that had been determined so far have been decided similarly by the ENC, save for one which was withdrawn.

This has been another good year for grants, with awards both locally, from the District Council's Member Empowerment Fund toward the 305th BG memorial cleaning works, courtesy of Glenn Harwood, the Wind Farm Trust for an extension to the allotment shed, the Foulger Trust for grass cutting machinery, and nationally, from the Department of Communities and Local Government for the running of the website, plus the purchase of a scanner.

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,
The continuous battle on dog fouling,
Working with the Police Safer Community Team regarding substance abuse,
Maintenance & repair of street lamps,
Siding out of footpaths,
Preparing for the enactment of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) next month,
Arranging the 305th BG memorial site re-dedication service in May 17, complete with a 94-year-old veteran, Doug Ward, who sadly passed away in January this year,
.....to name but a few.*

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.

This Council is financed through a tax (called the Precept) on each household which is collected by ENC. It was decided to keep the Precept for 2018-19 at £10,400, which for a Band D property makes the cost around 97p 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:

In January we signed a contract with a new local grass cutter, Creatifica Associates Ltd, probably better known to most people as Adrian Dale. The savings by not having to travel long distances to cut the grass has meant we get more cuts for the same money, and the grass is cut when the weather is right, not just because it is "our day" to be cut. Hopefully you will have seen and agreed with the improvement.

The parish website (www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk) had over 49,000 hits over the last 12 months, up from 45,000 last year. We've even tried embracing Social Media, and for those who "tweet" you can now see a year of Council activities at [@ChelvestonPC](https://twitter.com/ChelvestonPC) – but luckily our Clerk is not as prolific as Donald Trump!

Every 7 years or so, since 1995, the Council has undertaken a Parish Appraisal to give electors, including the ones who don't attend meetings like this, an opportunity to comment on the parish and how they feel things are, and how things should be. The results are anonymised and a summary will be issued to all households in the parish this Summer, but you will see the first results later in the meeting.

The Community Events committee, chaired by Liz Kelly, is made up of non-Cllrs who share a common aim to enhance the community spirit in the parish. They provided the entertainment for the 305th BG memorial re-dedication event in May 17, ran an inaugural dog show in September and an entertaining murder mystery evening in October.

Finally, I would also like to propose a vote of thanks to Raine Earnshaw and her WI colleagues for the refreshments that will be provided later this evening.

*Cllr Ray Daniells
Chair of the Parish Council*

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 14th May 2018, in the Village Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

O/2018/050/MHH

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Finance for the year ending 31st March 2018 (*draft and unaudited figures*).

Starting with the headline figures –

Balance brought forward	<u>£ 22,859.41</u>
Receipts in year	£ 17,224.95
Expenditure in year	<u>£-20,968.37</u>
Balance carried forward	£ 18,845.99

The receipts were made up of -

Precept	£10,400.00	
Grants to the Council	£ 4,500.83	DCLG, NCC, ENC MEF, Wind Farm Trust.
Allotment receipts	£ 445.00	Rents, shed bonds and water contribution.
Bank interest	£ 5.45	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Donated by the Chair to pay the Clerk.
VAT (recovery)	£ 1,872.67	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 208. This gave a typical Band D figure of £10,400 / (208*52) = 96.2p a week for 2017-18.

[For 2018-19, the Precept remains at £10,400, but the number of contributing households has fallen to 206, so for a typical Band D property the figures are now £10,400 / (206*52) = 97.1p a week].

The expenditure was -

Grass cutting	£6,062.09	Includes one extra cut, plus siding out the footways.
Recreation	£4,950.35	Green waste bin, events, marquee funded by grant.
St Lighting running costs	£2,190.99	Power for 58 street lights.
Allotment costs	£1,012.99	Lease, shed bond refunds, water, shed extension.
E-Government	£ 666.27	Includes new scanner funded by grant.
Insurance	£ 544.53	
St Lighting repairs	£ 505.80	
Subscriptions	£ 434.06	SLCC, Northants CALC
Stationery/Printing	£ 383.31	
Grants	£ 380.00	WI for APA 17 and the re-dedication event 2017.
Local Plans/NDP	£ 345.42	Final costs.
Gen Admin	£ 329.53	
Training	£ 230.50	Includes GPDR training
Village Hall hire	£ 207.00	Council meetings and the APA
Annual audit	£ 154.00	
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the Chair.
VAT (recoverable)	£2,570.53	To be claimed back next year.

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

The 2017-18 Council

Chair: Ray Daniells, *Fieldview*, Raunds Road.
Vice: Liz Kelly, 8 Duchy Close.
Jennifer Harwood, 7 Britten Close.
Patricia Mommersteeg, *Church House*, Caldecott.

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

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