

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

## Parish Council Annual Report 2019

This is the formal Annual Report of the Council's activities, given by the Chair, Cllr Ray Daniells, at the Annual Parish Assembly on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

*This is my second year in the role of Chair, and the Parish Council has one new face, Mandy Hill, who joined us in January following Liz Kelly standing down from the Parish Council when she and Fred left the parish for a new life in Cyprus. We also have a new vacancy, as Melvyn Wooding stood down earlier this month, having completed 16 years of service to the community. Also with us this evening is one of our District Councillors, Harriet Pentland. Pam Whiting is at an ENC meeting.*

Now for some facts and figures:

*There have been 12 formal council meetings since the last APA. The Council considered 15 planning & licensing applications this year; up from 13 in 2017-18, however some of these were complex applications, such as the waste to fuel facility that has been consented for Upper Higham Lane by NCC. This in turn resulted in the Council liaising with the Environment Agency and their Permit process. Another complex one was the Hydrogen fuel generation plant at the CRE site and the on-going saga of the 6 broiler chicken sheds in Newton Bromswold Parish.*

*All three of these took considerable time and effort to research and respond to. Whilst both the Waste to Fuel facility and the Hydrogen plant have been consented by NCC and ENC respectively, both have had conditions applied and we thank our District and County Cllrs accordingly. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Kaye Pentland and members of RAID (Residents Against Inappropriate Development) for the many hours of research and objections that they raised against the Upper Higham Lane application.*

*Unusually, one developer requested a meeting prior to submitting an application, so as better understand the Council's likely concerns. This application has yet to be submitted.*

*The Parish Council is partly financed through a tax (called the Precept) on each household which is collected by the ENC. It was decided to raise the Precept slightly for 2019-20 to £10,450, 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:*

*Last year the Council invested in grass cutting equipment and signed a contract with Creatifica Associates Ltd, probably better known to most people as Adrian Dale. He has also undertaken grounds maintenance tasks for us, including siding out a number of footways, cutting back overgrown shrubs, and carrying out minor repairs. In January, we renewed the contract as we consider the verges have never looked better. Hopefully you agree with the improvement.*

*The parish website ([www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk)) has ramped up to over 100,000 hits over the last 12 months, along our Twitter feed where you can see the Council activities at [@ChelvestonPC](https://twitter.com/ChelvestonPC). The site was recently selected by the service provider to be a case study of how use a parish website.*

*The Council announced earlier this year that it will be investing in three Public Access Defibrillators, one in each settlement, and have*

*started the process in selecting the equipment with technical advice from the Community Heartbeat Trust. However, simply buying kit won't save any lives if no-one knows how to use it. To that end the Council is in discussions with the East Northants Community First Responders to provide a number of training sessions on CPR and use of the defibrillators, which will be open to any resident of the parish to attend.*

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1. To mark this, the Parish Council paid for the names of the fallen on the slate plaque under the East window of St Johns to be gilded. We also applied for, and received, 5 silhouettes from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, that represented the fallen during the remembrance service.*

*With the County Council's cutbacks, potholes, and the state of some of the parish roads, has been an ongoing a problem for some years, but we are grateful to Jason Smithers, assisted by Harriet, in getting Northants Highways to replace the road surface through Caldecott. Now we just have to avoid anyone digging it up!*

*The cutbacks also meant that the road that serves Caldecott and Chelston Rise was no longer precautionary gritted, which resulted in an early morning accident in January that wrote off a resident's car and knocked down the front garden wall of another resident. Luckily no-one was injured.*

*The same cutbacks meant that the County decided it could no longer afford to maintain the two self-help grit bins in Water Lane. These have now been transferred to the Parish Council, and we have entered into a contract with a supplier to keep them topped up.*

*The Council has a long-term goal of installing average speed cameras, such as those in Milton Ernest, in the parish to address the ever-present speeding issue. Northants Police does not currently support the use of this technology, and they only have one average speed camera system in the county. Therefore, in the short-term, the Council has undertaken two other speed awareness activities;*

*Firstly, the creation and training of a Community Speed Watch team, which I coordinate, who use the speed guns provided by Northants Police on a rota basis with other parishes. In the first two weeks we have detected 52 speeding vehicles, as well as 6 HGV's using the Raunds Road, and secondly, we are purchasing three Speed Indicator Devices or SIDs to use within the parish. These cost approx. £10,000 and we are grateful to the Foulger Trust for making a £7,500 grant toward their purchase.*

*Before I close, 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*

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**PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** Persons wishing to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council should notify the Clerk by 5pm Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 – see the noticeboards or parish website for details.

# Parish Council Annual Report 2019

**Finance for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019** (*draft and unaudited figures*).

Starting with the headline figures –

Balance brought forward	<u>£ 18,845.99</u>
Receipts in year	£ 22,211.08
Expenditure in year	<u>£-13,502.73</u>
Balance carried forward	£ 27,554.34

The receipts were made up of -

Precept	£10,400.00	
Grants to the Council	£ 8,760.44	NCC, Insurance claim, and Foulger Trust.
Allotment receipts	£ 468.42	Rents, shed bonds, and water contribution.
Bank interest	£ 25.79	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Donated by the Chair to pay the Clerk.
VAT (recovery)	£ 2,555.43	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. 233 houses in the parish, but some have discounts (e.g. single occupancy, etc.), so the number paying was reduced to 206. This gave a typical Band D figure of £10,400 / (206\*52) = 97.1p a week for 2018-19.

[For 2019-20, the Precept increased to £10,450, but the number of contributing households has also risen to 207, so for a typical Band D property the figures are now £10,450 / (207\*52) = 97.1p a week].

The expenditure was -

Grass cutting /Ground works	£4,809.00	
St Lighting power	£2,127.35	58 street lights.
Allotment costs	£ 785.90	Lease, shed bond refunds, repairs.
St Lighting repairs	£ 581.90	
Insurance	£ 569.39	
War memorial	£ 516.30	Gilding the plaque
E-Government	£ 467.58	
Subscriptions	£ 456.24	
Stationery/Printing	£ 397.58	
Grants	£ 394.72	WI for APA 18 and RAID.
Recreation	£ 385.54	Events
Gen Admin	£ 345.30	
Annual audit	£ 254.00	
Village Hall hire	£ 215.50	Council meetings and the APA
Emergency Planning	£ 138.95	
Training	£ 137.66	
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the Chair.
VAT (recoverable)	£ 918.82	To be claimed back next year.

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

## The Council as at April 2019.

**Chair: Ray Daniells**, *Fieldview*, Raunds Road.  
**Vice: Andrew Seaman**, *Rosemoor*, Raunds Road.  
**Jennifer Harwood**, 7 Britten Close.  
**Mandy Hill**, 15 Water Lane.

**Patricia Mommersteeg**, *Church House*, Caldecott.  
**James Pentelow**, 22 Duchy Close.  
 One Vacant Seat  
**Clerk: Mark Hunter** *Ashbury*, Caldecott (626039).

E-mails to the Council on [Clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk)