

I would welcome any comments or questions on the financial report.

Anita Whittle - Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

WEBSITE

The website continues to enjoy fairly low traffic but still contains at a glance the how and who to contact for local information regarding the village and parish council.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Anyone wishing to help at the next village event please contact Jane Andrew on 812439 or janeandrew6@btinternet.com



FINANCIAL REPORT

The council's financial year opened with a balance of £33788.92 carried forward from 2014/15. This includes £15000.00 in a two year investment account. The precept for 2015/16 was £8521.88 plus a Housing Subsidy grant from Wiltshire Council of £267.54. Total £8789.42. Other budgeted income totalling £186.47 was received made up of various monies including bank interest of £160.47 and SSE Wayleave payment of £26.00.

The councils budgeted expenditure totalled £7406.51. This included every day expenditure such as the clerk's salary and expenses, insurance and grass maintenance amongst other costs. A full breakdown is available on request.

Separate from the budgeted expenditure, the council purchased various items from its capital reserves. They included a new mower, a new Parish Council noticeboard to be installed at the Pavilion, new timber for repairing the surround of the play equipment by the Pavilion, a payment towards the extension of the 30mph limit along The Green along with other small purchases. Again a full breakdown is available on request.

The carry forward for 2015/16 is £21826.69, a reduction on 14/15 end of year balance due to the capital expenditure made.

The precept for 2016/17 is £8973.82 plus the reduced housing subsidy grant from Wiltshire Council of £48.16. Total £9021.98. The rise of approximately £1.05 per household is to cover the reduction of the housing subsidy grant of £219.38 and the increased over all running costs of the council. The council does make every effort to keep its costs to the bare minimum but unfortunately outside cost increases mean it has had to raise the precept for financial year 2016/17.

Cheverell Magna Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7pm on Thursday 21st April 2016 The Pavilion, Witchcombe Close, Great Cheverell

AGENDA

AGENDA NO	ITEM	ACTION
1	Councillors in attendance	Information
2	Parishioners in attendance	Information
3	Public in attendance	Information
4	Apologies for Absence	To be recorded
83/16	Open Forum	Discussion
84/16	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2015	Information
85/16	Chair's Report	Cllr S Davies
86/16	Finance Parish Council Financial Report for year ended 31st March 2016	Parish Clerk

INTRODUCTION

This has been another busy year for the parish council. We have said a sad goodbye to Councillor Alan Thompson and welcomed two new Councillors; Hazel Simons and Stephen Pearce. There unfortunately remains a casual vacancy and anyone wishing to join the team can speak to any Councillor or the Clerk. The council has been involved in the consultation process for Victoria Park which, when proposals are sent to the MoJ, could mean a huge improvement of the infrastructure on the whole estate in return for a limited amount of extra housing. The millennium tree could not be saved and is imminently being replaced. The new village marquee is on order and should be here for the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

We continue to work with the Community Speedwatch team and the Police to reduce speeding through the village. We are very grateful to Chris Hall and his team for all their efforts to increase driver awareness and compliance with the 20 mph limit. This team now has few volunteers, so please contact Chris Hall if you are able to help.

The parish council has obtained a 30 mph limit on a long section of The Green, hopefully reducing speeds at this end of the village.

We have recently initiated a joint action with seven other parishes to ask Wiltshire Council to address shared problems on the B3098 and C40, namely speeding and the size and volume of HGVs.

We have worked with Cheverell Parva Parish Council to re-instate School Lane, wrongly named Westbury Road for many years, causing duplication and mis-directed deliveries. Residents are reminded that they have a legal duty to ensure the highway is not obstructed by overgrown hedges, stones, fallen branches etc.

We regularly write to house and land owners asking them to meet these obligations, if necessary referring the issue to Wiltshire Council.

FOOTPATHS

Public Rights of Way in Great Cheverell were surveyed in October, 2015, identifying one group of paths with minor problems, which have largely been solved in co-operation with the land owners concerned. A second group of footpaths have more serious problems (obstructions and fencing directly or indirectly restricting access) and these have been referred to the Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team. We are also working with Cheverell Parva Parish Council to re-establish access on a footpath which crosses both parishes.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Several attempts to interest residents in a Neighbourhood Plan for Great Cheverell produced little support. A sub-committee was formed after the last meeting, but its membership it is now too small to undertake this major task effectively. The parish council is therefore seeking advice as to whether to continue with a Neighbourhood Plan or follow some other planning process.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Community Speedwatch (CSW) team continues to serve and protect the residents and users of our village. Over the period April 2015 to March 2016 we have conducted 61 speed checks (not always in good weather), at various locations and times, counting 5,425 vehicle movements of which 353 (6.5%) were exceeding the 20mph speed limit (57 of which were doing more than 30mph).

Our role is primarily deterrence, which is why we wear those bright yellow jackets and stand out obviously. Drivers have to be pretty stupid to speed past us! Our results are sent to the Police, who undertake appropriate legal action.

We enjoy a very good working relationship with our local Neighbourhood Policing Team, who often come out to assist us and stop speeders at the time - be aware, they now have the powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

And all this with only 10 volunteers – just think what we could achieve if some of you came to help us. The job isn't onerous, but it is rewarding and the team camaraderie is very good. If you'd like to know more please contact Chris Hall (Team Leader) on 01380 816983 or woodlandsrx68@hotmail.co.uk.

PLAYGROUND

The playground continues to be used and enjoyed by children of all ages. It is also a meeting point for parents, older children and families, sometimes three generations together.

There is a monthly inspection of the playground for any faults and it is subject to a full assessment by RoSPA once a year. Maintenance work has been undertaken as required, with more planned for better weather in the summer. We are also planning to invest in some new play equipment. Please contact Cllr. Jane Andrew if you have any ideas.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The parish council would like to thank the groundworks volunteers assisting Cllr. Rob Hayward - Tim Roberts-Phare and Jeremy Davies. This should become easier due to the purchase of a new mower. Ongoing is the campaign to keep village clean and tidy, both via annual clean-up day and regular attention to taking litter home; some welcome improvements have been seen in the bagged dog foul litter problem. 2015/2016 was again a tough year for the maintenance of the playing field and surrounding grassland. The field was under water for much of the winter and spring. The parish council is in the process of investigating the problem of why the field is flooding to the current unacceptable degree.