

CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

I am further encouraged by the progress that we have made this year. I would again like to thank all of the parish councillors who, despite their full-time jobs, voluntary and family commitments, give their time freely and have worked hard for the benefit of the residents throughout the year. I would also like to thank our Borough Councillor Leigh Hunt and County Councillor Adrian Warwick for the support they continue to show for the work of the parish council and to residents. The Parish Council has achieved a great deal over the past 12 months:

HIGHLIGHTS - ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

- Installation of new play equipment and Trim Trail in July 2017, for which thanks continue to be due to two local residents who initiated this project in 2010 by raising the kickstart funding.
- Co-option of 2 Parish Councillors in September 2017, bringing the Parish Council to full strength
- Foundation Level Award of Local Council Award Scheme achieved in March 2018
- Village events
- Houlton has begun to populate homes that have been developed on the site and we are pleased to welcome the residents of three new households to the parish
- Instruction and payment for village gateway signs to be made and erected for each of the 4 entry points into the village – to be here soon

Community engagement

- The first Village Fete to be held for many year in September 2017
- Litter Picks November 2017 and March 2018 (Great British Spring Clean)
- Work of the parish Conservation Group. Activities included: churchyard improvements bulb planting etc
- Christmas festivities – Christmas Food and Craft Fayre, Christmas Tree and Community Carol singing

Increased communication – delivered to each household

- Regular Parish Council newsletters to inform residents of upcoming actions and events
- Use of Social Media to circulate news around the parish

Policies created by the parish council to further strengthen accountability

- Training Policy for Councillors and staff
- Document Retention and Disposal Policy
- Building policies to meet the new Data Protection requirements

Successful grant applications

- £10,000 from RBC for play equipment
- £350 towards new noticeboard for playing field

Partnership

- Created formal lines of communication with Newton Parish Council
- Increased contact with local Police team

Caring for our community

- Bi-annual Village walks to identify and rectify local issues

Challenges met this year

- Still awaiting the installation of the proposed traffic calming scheme
- Water damage at the pavilion caused by severe weather
- Reduction in the amount of Council Tax Support Grant paid to parishes
- Old street lighting in need of updating/renewal – strategy still in planning stage

A reminder that we are currently in the process of putting together another Village Fete which is planned for Saturday 15 September. We are interested in collaborating with residents to help make this event as successful as possible and welcome any offers of help. The first working group meeting is already set for 12 April and we hope you are able to join us at the Bull at 7pm that evening to help start the ball rolling.

The parish council thanks those villagers who are attending parish council meetings, providing written feedback, and responding to questionnaires in increasing numbers to inform the thinking of the work that the councillors undertake. We sincerely hope that this trend continues so that we are able to address the many varied local concerns that arise.

Financial report 2017-18

The Annual Parish Meeting is held just prior to the end of the financial year. It has therefore not been possible to submit the final accounts for the year 2017-18 to support the Annual Report.

I anticipate that this will have taken place by the next parish council meeting on 9 April 2018 in the meantime; I shall present an overview of the accounts as we currently understand them. I should confirm that the accounts will be subject to the Annual Return Internal and External Audit process in June 2018; and will be available to anyone who wishes to see them during the period of public inspection.

In the meantime; the parish council began the year with £81,534 in the bank; of which around £46,580 is earmarked for the upgrade or replacement of community facilities.

For the financial year 2017-18 the parish council received £23,715 in precept from the Borough Council. We also received monies from the football clubs' use of the playing fields, from the allotments and grazing fields and we have received £10,350 in grant funding.

Significant outgoings this year are for the usual costs of running the parish council meetings, street lighting costs, insurance, and also maintenance costs associated with the pavilion, playing fields and street lighting. The purchase of new play equipment and adult trim trail equipment amounted to around £26,000.

Having started the year with £81,534 of funds available of we are likely to have finished the year with a bank balance of around £78,0450.

Marion Nash
Chair – Clifton upon Dunsmore Parish Council
26 March 2018