



Chairman's Report

The past year has been somewhat disappointing in that we have been unable, due to issues beyond our control, to make any headway with the Neighbourhood Plan. The current situation is that we have returned to Regulation 14 Stage to review our site allocations and to ascertain from property owners if any changes need to be made to the status of any land available for development. We will also be asking for any further sites that may have come available since our last call for sites. Then we will be able to move on with the assistance of a new Neighbourhood Planning Officer appointed by the District Council.

On the plus side I am glad to say that the experiment to employ Neighbourhood Wardens seems to have had a profound effect on the village as a whole from within all age groups. Not only are residents seeing and reporting the benefit of their presence, but the Wardens themselves have said how much they are enjoying their roles within the community. Their main area of concern however is the indiscriminate parking of cars that brings me on to the next subject of my report.

The new parking arrangements have not met with approval from a number of quarters, not least from Council members.

Whilst the annual pass, which can be used in a number of villages, has some merit, our Council has concerns with the District Council over the necessity to charge for the first hour parking and over the large increase in the cost for those annual all-day permit holders. There is concern that

the changes may lead to an increase in indiscriminate and careless on-street parking which we are anxious to avoid.

We are still continuing to look at ways to improve or replace the Sports Pavilion. The Council have taken the decision to advertise for a Contract Manager in order to cost and design a project, which we will then put before the parish for consultation. We have funds set aside already and there is more available from Section 106 monies which are contributions provided by developers over the years to assist with local projects. The proposed new development on the A29 opposite Sopers Cottages is one of those developments which, although approved is not yet started. Section 106 monies from that development are set aside specifically for the Sports and Social Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents for their support particularly the many volunteers that we have within the village who give up their own time to help others. Our village is constantly being singled out as an example of volunteering and that is something of which I am very proud.

The Council's staff are continuing to keep up to date with all the various issues that arise daily within the village; they perform admirably and their support is also invaluable.

The Council will continue to work to make Pulborough a pleasant place in which to live and work and I hope that will continue for many years to come.

Ray Qusted, *Chairman*

Planning & Services Committee Report

Over the last year few new planning permissions have been granted. This report will therefore focus on prospects for the future. The most important ongoing activity is undoubtedly the neighbourhood plan, but the process that we now have to go through is unlikely to bring the plan to a public vote before the middle of next year. If the plan is voted for, then a key advantage to the parish will be to secure a greater share of the CIL (community infrastructure levy) which the parish can then invest in improving services and amenities in the village. This is particularly important during a time when both county and district councils are receiving less funding from central government.

A number of developments have been approved over the last 5 years where no houses have yet been built. These currently number around 150 dwellings. We hope that the various issues affecting the commencement of these developments are resolved soon, as the risk to us is that other developments, not currently featuring in our draft neighbourhood plan could more easily be forced upon us.

The main challenges to the provision of village services arise from the changing demographic of the village. Central government forecast an overall increase of around 1000 people in Pulborough over the next 15 years, and within the total population we are likely to have an increase of around 50% in the number of people aged

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over 65. The proportion of middle aged people (between 40 and 65) in the village, a valuable source of community volunteers, is decreasing. Pulborough is very typical of all communities in the rural South of England in this respect. A contributory reason for these changes is that property rental and purchase prices are rising much faster than wage increases, so younger people doing valuable work within our community are less and less able to live here.

Other concerns regarding infrastructure have been increasing congestion on our roads, and active support to infrastructure improvements such as the proposed improvements to the A27 around Arundel and Worthing from as many people as possible will be very important.

Problems to our sewerage and drainage system have continued in several parts of the village, most frequently occurring in times of normal heavy rain – too much drainage water appears to flow into our sewerage system, leading to backflow in this essential part of our infrastructure. On the plus side, some improvements have been made to the road intersection at Swan Corner, and a first step towards improving traffic and pedestrian access along Lower Street should be made in the next few months.

Suggestions from parish residents on how all these issues can be addressed are always most welcome

Cllr A Tilbrook
(Chairman – Planning & Services Committee)

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Report

During the autumn we installed the outside gym equipment on the main recreation ground, near the children's play area, which quickly became popular and well used by all. Pocket Park is having a tidy up, with the help and generosity of the local Tesco Community Officer and managers as one of their community projects and also with the help of volunteers, Neighbourhood Wardens and councillors. This has made an excellent start to the programme. Things will seem to slow a little to encourage nesting birds, but there are plans to install bird and bat boxes and hopefully one or two seats for people to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and birdsong. It's hoped that the previous 'school corner' will be a project that will involve St Mary's School community. Nutbourne Common plans are slowly moving forward, work so far includes increasing the heathers and managing trees. At the time of writing the bluebells are in bloom and looking lovely. Thanks are due once again to the volunteers who gave up

their time to help with the work. The Rivermead land is a work in progress and plans to better manage and improve this area are in early stages. We hope to encourage water voles, water birds and native wildflowers such as kingcups and others.

The Council continues to plan for a rebuild of the Sports Pavilion and the Social Club there is now under new management, who are giving it a freshen up. The Neighbourhood Wardens are doing sterling work keeping their eyes and ears on the village, with a particular focus on vulnerable folk, including the young and the elderly. They've already made a difference to the village and have had an impact on nuisance issues like dog fouling. The Youth Club is growing, with more younger children joining – good luck to Youth Worker Ben Sheldon and helpers.

Cllr E Henly
(Chairman – Recreation & Open Spaces Committee)

Finance & Policy Committee Report

Following this written report is the draft income and expenditure account of your council for the last financial year. As in previous years, these figures are subject to a final audit. The income for the year ended 31st March 2017 increased in monetary terms from £210,641 to £220,325. There were no one off grants in the year for the Neighbourhood Plan or the Memorial Garden, however external gym equipment was funded by Section 106 monies at a cost £18,028.

The increase for each band D property for the past financial year compared to 2015/16 was 1% per annum or 73 pence per annum. Other income was similar to prior years with various rents increased with inflation. Staff costs saw an increase of 58.75% this year from £74,495 to £118,264, principally due to the funding of 2 x Neighbourhood Warden posts.

The project work associated with the refurbishment of the Sports and Social Pavilion continues slowly whilst trying

to secure funding and seek grants and better project scope. Allocated reserves at the year end of £139,457.07 are earmarked for this project out of a total reserves figure of £242,685.79. Several other projects are planned by your council, for which funds have been specifically earmarked, including improvements to our open spaces such as Pocket Park and Rivermead and future costs associated with the provision of the village wardens. Following a two year trial period, the village will need to decide whether to continue to fund Neighbourhood Wardens or not. This may lead to a larger than historically seen precept increase but the community will decide on this. Another project the Council supports is a replacement Youth Club. The lease on the present building has been renewed and will lapse in 2020, so a replacement is needed. This may now be included in the envelope of the newly designed sports pavilion.

Cllr P Clarke
(Chairman – Finance & Policy Committee)

Summary of Accounts

Income & Expenditure Account (Awaiting Audit)

Yr ended 31st March 2016		Current Yr ended 31st March 2017
Income Summary		
175,018	Precept	180,010
175,018	Sub Total	180,010
Operating Income		
7,359	Administration	4,481
8,763	Capital Grants	0
388	Loans and Finance	320
1,645	MSF	1,496
5,496	Discretionary	5,583
0	Highways	330
1,323	Allotments	1,299
10,649	Other Recreation	26,805
210,641	Total Income	220,325
Running Costs		
19,674	Administration	19,912
527	Advertising & Publicity	546
63	MSF	950
74,495	Staff Costs	118,264
27,957	Discretionary	10,108
4,934	Highways	5,535
4,111	Street Lighting	3,988
1,017	Allotments	1,193
249	Bowling Club	286
8,202	Grounds Maintenance	10,372
16,453	Pavilion	10,651
28,905	Other Recreation	41,587
186,585	Total Expenditure	223,392
General Fund Analysis		
326,593	Opening Balance	350,649
210,641	Plus : Income for Year	220,325
186,585	Less : Expenditure	223,392
350,649	Closing Balance	347,582

Pulborough Parish Council

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(as at 31st March 2017)

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