

Annual Report Burton Overy Parish Council 2018/2019

Financial:

The precept is a grant to the Parish to enable it to carry on its work and is raised through the council tax levied by Harborough District Council. The precept has been raised again for the current financial year by £1,600 and now stands at £9,600. The increase is needed to enable the Council to meet continuing challenging changes required by law, including the employment of a Clerk, but in particular to pay for the updating of the streetlamps to LED's.

In accordance with regulation the Parish Council's financial statements and returns, governing documents, agendas and minutes are available to view on The Parish Council website: www.burtonoverypc.org.uk

Councillors:

Councillor Fran Brown has resigned from the Council, having completed 13 years service to the community as a councillor, and notably as Chairperson. Sincere thanks are due to Fran for her work on the Council and in particular, her role, alongside Kate Barker in transforming the council to an efficient council ready for the future. And of course, for Fran's tenacity in ensuring our streetlamps are 21st Century ready!

We have been joined by one new councillor, Bob Warwick. I would like to thank Bob for agreeing to take on this role.

A very big thank you is also due to Sarah Rankine, Mark Firth and David Fletcher. Councillors continue to give valuable time and commitment to the Parish Council despite the pressures of their own working commitments.

Neighbourhood Plan:

The Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan has been made and now forms the basis for planning decisions applicable to Burton Overy Parish up to 2031. The plan sets out a vision and planning policy that aims to help shape future development in Burton Overy. The plan focuses on planning issues which consultation shows matter most to this community. These include policies that:

- Ensure that housing development takes place in the most sustainable locations, is of the right quantity and type and does not harm the existing and historic character of the village;
- Encourage the right types of development that meet local needs;
- Protect important buildings and structures of historic and architectural interest;
- Protect community facilities;
- Promote high quality design in new development which enhances the Parish's special character and identity;

- Protect the countryside and special landscape and where possible improve biodiversity and important habitats; and
- Protect open spaces that are important to the community and/or wildlife

Burton Overy village is a Conservation Area and this designation recognises that the character of the area is worthy of preserving and enhancing. With regard to trees we are keen to encourage residents to replant a suitable tree in an appropriate location in place of one that is felled with conservation area consent. With the support and help of our Tree Warden, Neil Phillips, we hope to encourage the maintenance of the biodiversity and landscaping which is so important to our Parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan has succeeded following a tremendous amount of work and commitment from the parishioners involved in the process but most particularly because of the leadership given by Mark Firth as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Many thanks are due to the people who have helped in the process but most of all we need to recognise the responsibility, hard work and commitment not to mention tact and resilience shown by Mark, and Fran, throughout this process.

Planning:

The Parish Council takes time and care over its response to planning applications that affect the Parish. There have been a number of challenging applications within the Parish in the past year. It is noted that planning rules have changed to allow planning decisions to be made by a designated officer rather than being determined by planning committee; even where there are multiple objections. This will require additional vigilance by the council.

The Neighbourhood Plan should help to shape and guide as well as to encourage consistency in our response to those applications.

We also continue to respond to applications and consultations which, although outside the Parish, will have an impact on Burton Overy. These include relevant developments In Great Glen; most particularly the Miller Homes Oaks Road planning application.

We have continued to monitor and respond to Harborough District Councils drafting of the district wide plan, which is now in place.

We have considered and responded to the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan which could have serious implications for our area including the proposed A46 Expressway and the development that will accompany it. It remains a concern that the route has still not been disclosed. Councillor Sarah Rankine attended a community meeting on the A46 proposal and will be our point of contact on this matter.

Parish Council Clerk:

Because of increasing regulation and frequent changes in the law practice and procedures the work of the parish clerk has become more demanding. Parish Clerks are regarded as professionals and are expected to keep up to date with changes in regulation and procedure and when appropriate attend training courses. It is a statutory office and the role includes giving legal and financial advice to the Parish Council. The clerk's job is to ensure the Council as a whole conducts its business properly and to provide independent, objective and professional advice. Our clerk Kate Barker is doing a brilliant job for the Parish. This last year has seen Kate achieve much for the Council including preparing for the changes required to update the street lamps and seek to take our management of financial payments and auditing into the 21st Century. Kate also in particular handles required new practices needed to comply with the regulations for transparency, auditing and good governance and maintaining and adding value to the Parish Council website. Kate works extremely hard and very efficiently for the Parish Council and I would like to express our grateful thanks for her excellent work.

Miscellaneous

The Parish Council assets including notice boards and benches require a certain amount of maintenance. Nick Jones one of our parishioners mainly carries out this work for us. I would like to say a big thank you to Nick for the work he does in this respect. In particular, following many requests by the village, the dog waste collection bin is being moved from Carlton Lane to Town Street.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with the appropriate authorities in respect of the state of the roads, fly tipping and the routine maintenance of the streetlights. The Parish Council ensures the community defibrillator is checked monthly, and ready for use if required. We also support the bi-annual Village Newsletter.

Community Events

The council has a budget of £200 per annum to support community events. In November 2018, we supported the commemoration of the end of World War One and acquisition of a memorial bench. Our thanks also go to the Bolton-Carter family who provided a generous donation towards the bench.

The council, led by Fran Brown, co-ordinated out a village Litter Pick in April 2018 which was very successful.

Our thanks also go to Caroline Ramsey and Simon Barre for hosting a very successful refresher training, on behalf of the council, in the use of CPR and Defibrillator in November 2018, which was very well attended.

Plans for the coming year:

We will continue to keep up to date and respond where necessary to the revised local plan, the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan and any other relevant consultations.

We will monitor our progress and compliance and take action where necessary with regard to the General Data Protection Regulation and Freedom of Information.

We are in a position to respond quickly and support commemorative events together with our local church, should a significant member of the royal family sadly pass away.

The Parish Council will keep you informed on all we do throughout the year via formal notices on the Parish Council Noticeboard and website and via the Village Newsletter.

Carolyn Carson

Chairperson
22nd May 20189