

Manley Parish Council

Chairman's Report

25th May 2016

Personnel

MPC has operated with a full complement of 9 Councillors since July 2015. The resignation of myself from May 2016 mean there is a now a vacancy to be advertised.

Finance

Significant spend over the past 12 months financial period included £6.4k refurbishing the Parish field; £4k new Village Hall boiler; £1.3k new fencing around Memorial Garden; £0.6k May Fair road closure and £0.6k Owl sculpture. We started the year with £16.7k balance and receipted £18.3k. Our year end balance was £17.2k. and our total expenditure including the main items above was £17.8k.

Looking ahead we are pleased to report that for the financial year 2016/17 there was a 0% local Precept rise as part of CWaCs total Tax bill. However the bad news is that from this financial year (16/17) the Community Housing Bonus Grant is being withdrawn as part of a CWaC cost saving initiative. This means that the past financial year has benefited from £12.2K (£8k Bonus Grant and £4k Community Play fund) which will be non repeatable this financial year.

Our budget for 2016/17 has been set at £17.1k with targeted spend on completion of Playing Field upgrade (goalposts etc); MVH; Playing field fencing boundaries; and Parish Plan project initiatives.

Planning

The Planning Application submitted by FC/FH for the Delamere Forest Masterplan was finally put to bed on 28th April 2016 with the announcement that it had been "dismissed by consent" before actually going to the Court of Appeal.

The spectre of Fracking in the local area came to the fore in October/November 2015 and culminated in a fact finding meeting chaired by G Evans MP at Helsby High School. This was well reported in a Parish flyer subsequently published. However many will be aware that Star Energy (part of IGas) have purchased a field in Bridge Trafford with a view to seismic testing and possible subsequent extraction. MPC continue to watch and monitor any potential planning applications affecting our locality.

Communication

Efforts to communicate and disseminate information of importance to the wider Parish have been greatly enhanced with the development of our integrated village website: www.manleypc.co.uk

Whilst it is not completely finished, efforts are ongoing to incorporate Parish Plan aims and initiatives, more local links eg Manley Village School, and local events of importance such as Inter Village cricket match on 12th June 2016. Site visitor statistics will also be monitored.

Homewatch

Cllr Walton has continued to take the lead in this area and keep MPC informed of the current status. The main one being a re-branding of Homewatch to Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Once finalised there is £1000 allocated in the 16/17 budget for circulars, local signage and awareness.

Projects

Work commenced on the refurbishment of the Haworth Playing Field back in August 2015 with the closure of the field followed by grass spraying, rotivation, spreading, levelling and subsequent seeding. The Spring of 2016 saw it being fertilised and mown a few times and it is now close to being opened for Summer usage. Cllr Froot deserves much credit and thanks for managing this initiative from his Community Funds Application right through to sourcing of goalposts etc.

Other projects have included upgrading the Memorial Garden (ongoing); financing of new VH boiler to improve heating system; and assisting the restoration of Maidens Cross (a local heritage boundary feature).

Parish Plan

Some of the projects listed above were part of the Parish Plan so significant progress has been made to address issues of varying importance over the past 12 months. However, new priorities were agreed in March 2016 to include: sponsoring of annual Village Event; communications; improved use of playing field; litter/grit bins and maintenance of Village signage, verges and footpaths.

Events

NTR

Other

During the course of the year Cllr's have been involved with many local issues eg. attendance and contribution at Strategic Planning Committees; upgrade of some local stiles/footpaths; Commissioning traffic surveys (School Lane and Manley Road up to Commons side); Signage replacements and minor planning applications.

Finally the Chairman would like to convey his thanks to fellow Councillors and The Clerk to the Council for the support given to me and the time they given up performing Council duties for the benefit of Manley and its residents over the past 2 years. Also to Cllr Johnson for her contribution and continued support of the Manley locality.



Jeremy Ellis

Chairman

MPC