

Creeting St Peter Annual Parish Meeting 15th May 2017

Chairman's Report on work undertaken by Creeting St Peter Parish Council 2016-17

There have been **6 meetings** of the Parish Council during the past year, one meeting for the village regarding a planning application.

The Council has currently 5 members; we are at full strength, so then decisions are taken that are truly representative of the whole Parish. We co-opted a previous parish council meeting.

Clerk - We have retained our Clerk who has attended training and has been supporting the Council with all of its tasks.

The Budget – this has been set at £6,185. Due to the prudent management of the Council's finances, the Precept has changed from £4,870 to £4,900. This will make sure that we stay financially viable for the future.

An annual requirement of the Auditor is that the Council undertakes a full **Financial Risk Assessment** and a **Review of the Internal Audit Process**. These were both completed. **Financial Regulations** were also reviewed and found to be adequate for the Council's requirements.

1 Planning Applications were considered:-

2 maple cottage, to erect a 2 storey extension.
This was granted with no objection.

The grass on the playing field and the Village Green continues to be cut by the Grounds Maintenance team from Stowmarket Town Council, who has done such a good job for us in the past two years. They also undertake some maintenance work at the playing field and also at Fen Alder Carr Local Nature Reserve.

The **Play Area** appears to be well used by the local young people. The slide will need to be replaced in a few years' time, and funds are being set aside for this purpose. Pigeon spikes were placed on top of both the Birds Nest swing and the Toddler swing to deter roosting pigeons. This appears to have been successful. There are plans for some tree planting and possibly a wildlife area. Also there has been discussion around, flattening the pitch to make the football pitch more user friendly. Work has also been undertaken to eradicate the molehills, which is ongoing.

Village Lottery - our thanks to Liz Sawyer who sold tickets and paid out the prize money, which amounted to £1,100. All profits will be used to improve and maintain amenities used by the residents of the Parish.

Fen Alder Carr Nature Reserve continues to be managed by the Parish Council. It is maintained as a Local Nature Reserve by conserving and enhancing habitats, particularly the wet alder carr woodland, meadow, fen and pond areas.

The Parish Council has undertaken to:

- keep it in good repair
- prepare an annual management plan
- encourage public access and promote Fen Alder Carr LNR to the local community as a wildlife study-site
- and ensure it is open to the public at all times - except when work is being carried out or when high winds are expected.

The site was only closed on a few brief occasions due to strong winds. A few incidents of anti-social behaviour were dealt with by the Police. This may change depending on the decisions made by the council at the next meeting this might see the gates closed. To be opened on special occasions. This is a decision has been raised by the wildlife group. The annual guided **Bat Walk** didn't take place this year due to bad weather. We tried to rearrange this meeting however it was not possible.

Wildlife group this has been set up and had held 2 meetings so far this year and will continue to work with the council to improve the wildlife in the area for local people.

Donations have been granted the Suffolk Bat Group, and the Royal British Legion.

A **poppy wreath** was laid, as in previous years, by the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday at the site of the Parish War Memorial.

Footpath Group – hasn't been as active as it could be. However this should be rectified over the upcoming year.

Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities - Has been implemented and this means that smaller Councils are now subject to a new requirement to publish information on websites, such as draft minutes and all expenditure over £100. The Council publicises much of its work already, but the Government considers that publication of the items covered by this Code will provide the local electorate and ratepayers with a clearer picture of the activities of these smaller authorities. Even more reason to follow the Parish Website!

The **Parish Newsletter** continues to be produced by the Parish Council, with issue number 28 being delivered in July. This, together with **Parish Website** is a source

of information for residents. There are still some pages of the website unfinished as they need local input. Volunteers to help with the Local History page in particular, are needed. The Parish Council also, on occasions, provides articles for the '**In Touch with Creeting St Peter**' publication.

Training - The Clerk attended **website training sessions**

20mph speed limit –has been granted, hopefully by next year this will be fully implemented . We will find out further information from County Councillor Gary Green.

Telephone Box - We are in the process of adopting this, to be property of the parish council. With it being adapted to house a defibulator for the benefit of the village.

The Future

The 20 MPH this should be implemented within the year.

Telephone box this should house a defiblulator and be of use to the village in the future.

Wildlife group This has now been set up

Machala Peacock
Chairman
Creeting St Peter Parish Council
15th May 2017