



Shavington-cum-Gresty
Parish Council

Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council

World War One Centenary in Shavington-cum-Gresty
Weekend of 9th – 11th November 2018

www.shavingtononline.co.uk

Shavington-cum-Gresty
Community

Annual Report – 2018-2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I start by thanking my fellow parish councillors for having elected me as Chairman in May 2018.

I would also like to express my thanks to Councillor Bill Cooper, whom I took over from, for his sterling effort and support.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past year and the challenges it has brought. We have made progress in many areas and I would like to thank all the Parish Council members, including those currently in office and those who chose not to stand again in the election, for their valued input and contribution.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would also like to express thanks to Bill Atteridge, a local resident, who continues to lead the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and make progress towards the final stage of the Neighbourhood Plan before it is ready for adoption.

We have had an eventful year, and I am pleased to report that we have now completed the core refurbishment of Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall. The main hall has had a new ceiling, and there has been a significant upgrade to the toilets, amongst many other smaller changes.

We have also allocated a sum of money in our budget to potentially purchase recreational land. While there is still a long way to go to achieve this, it is a significant first step in getting sizeable recreational space in the parish, and I hope to see more progress on this over the next few years.

I am a firm believer in 'build, measure, learn' and this is something I have implemented this year by ensuring we test out new ideas, evaluate how well they worked, and then improve on them for the future. This year, we have tested out and organised new community-based competitions and events to help bring people together, including; the Scarecrow Competition and our very first family-friendly Carols at Christmas event. We received a lot of positive feedback following these events and I am looking forward to some of the new ideas that are now in the pipeline.

I believe that the Parish Council should be there to support village organisations when needed, without stepping on their toes, and that one of our key functions is to bring the community together. As a Council, we have focused intently over the past year on how we can engage with the community and help you engage with each other. Hopefully, you have seen a more visible Parish Council, whether it is through our events, newsletters, or through the Shavington Online brand which we use heavily online on our website and through Facebook.

If you are a member of a village organisation and you believe that the Parish Council could help you, whether it be to advertise an event or to include an article about your organisation in one of our newsletters to help you recruit members, please do reach out to the Clerk on 01270 26 26 36. I would like to think we can facilitate requests from village organisations where possible.

Looking to the future, we have plans for more community events than the previous year, and we want to make further improvements to Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall and the allotments. Operationally, we are also looking at how we can restructure the Parish Council to make it more efficient, and we are exploring long-term budgets to aid long-term planning.

Our full Parish Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome, so please come along to hear more about what we are up to.

Benjamin Gibbs
Chairman

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council manages the allotments site on Gresty Lane.

There are 18 plots and these are operated on a break-even basis in that each allotment-holder pays a fee for their plot, and the Council's maintenance of the site approximates to the rent received.

There are currently two vacant plots, but when these were vacated, they were left in a very overgrown state and they will need clearing before they can be offered to people on the waiting list.

PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS:

CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS

In December 2018, the Council organised its first family-friendly 'Carols at Christmas' event for the whole community. This was well-attended by people of all ages. A small ensemble from Crewe Brass Band played and there was very positive feedback.

This event is to be repeated in December 2019 (22 December 2019).

BEST-DRESSED HOUSE AT CHRISTMAS

The third Best-Dressed House at Christmas competition was held in December 2018 and the winners were Jackie and Melvin Latham of Southbank Avenue (receiving a £50 cash prize) with runners-up Andrea and Russell Mason of Godwin Crescent receiving a £30 cash prize.

SCARECROW COMPETITION MONTH – APRIL 2019

Although edging into the year 2019-2020, it is worth mentioning that in April 2019, the Council organised its first Scarecrow Competition which was judged by residents in the parish.

Residents wishing to enter were Encouraged to use recyclable materials and include the Shavington leaf logo where possible and to make sure that their scarecrow was visible from the road so that it could easily be judged.

The winner was St Mark's Church and the runner-up was 52 Osborne Grove.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The website 'shavingtononline.co.uk' has been operational for almost two years and the old website has been de-commissioned.

Shavingtononline.co.uk is the platform and has changed the focus more towards the community, but still includes all the Parish Council documents. Many residents are now using this as their main source of receiving information from the Parish Council itself but are also able to share with other residents in the parish using the Shavingtononline Facebook page.

Quarterly Newsletters We continue to publish the quarterly newsletters, delivered to each household in the parish. These are distributed usually the first week in March, June, September and December.

FINANCE

At its meetings held on 2 January 2019 and 14 January 2019, the Parish Council agreed its budget for 2019-2020. The budget amounted to £180,595.00. As the Parish Council expected to have a balance of £52,032 in the bank on 1 April 2019, the sum required to meet the shortfall between that balance and the budgeted items was £128,563.00 and this was rounded up to £129,000.00 and this was the precept requested from Cheshire East Council.

This precept would result in additional Council Tax of £61.79 per Band D property.

(For information, the precept is the amount of money which the Parish Council requests from Cheshire East Council to enable the Parish Council to fulfil all its budget obligations. This in turn is re-charged to householders in the form of additional Council Tax which is shown separately on the annual bill.)

The following are the key areas of spend for 2019-2020, but the full list is appended to the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019.

	ITEM	£		ITEM	£
	Salary		19	Gradwell – dedicated phone line	300.00
1	Clerk's gross salary	15,085.00	20	On-line (eg Website, Facebook)	500.00
2	Overtime costs	2,000.00	21	E-mail addresses Councillors/Clerk	1,080.00
3	Employer's NI contribution	750.00	22	Community engagement	1,000.00
4	Payroll service	130.00	23	Support/hosting general	1,000.00
	Administration		24	Village Voice advertising	120.00
5	Clerk's expenses	100.00		Grants	
6	Stationery items	500.00	25	General (small grants up to £250)	1,000.00
7	Purchase of laptop for use by Clerk	2,000.00	26	Environmental grant. Shav. Acad.	30.00
8	Xero accountancy software training	500.00	27	Youth Club Provision	6,000.00
	Amenities		28	Grounds maintenance	12,500.00
9	Allotment site maintenance	250.00		Insurance/Audit/Subscriptions	
10	Purchase of benches and litter bins	3,000.00	29	External audit (PKF Littlejohn)	480.00
11	Vine Tree Play Area Play equipment repairs/replacement	5,000.00	30	Internal audit (JDH Business Serv)	420.00
			31	Insurance	3,500.00
12	Best-Dressed House at Christmas	500.00	32	Cheshire Assoc. Local Councils	1,400.00
13	General amenities budget	250.00		Members (Councillors)	
	Communications		33	Expenses –consumables	100.00
14	Design work (newsletters, posters, etc.)	11,570.00	34	Member Training	900.00
15	Printing	6,000.00		Neighbourhood Planning	
16	Delivery of newsletter	1,500.00	35	CCA Support	2,000.00
17	Photography – newsletter and stock	3,600.00	36	CCA Membership	50.00
18	Collation of newsletter	2,500.00	37	Police Community Support Off.	33,280.00

	ITEM	£		ITEM	£
38	Shavington Primary School Car Park – fee for use	3,500.00	41	Purchase of parcel of recreation Land OR Village Hall lounge refurbishment	20,000.00
	Remembrance Sunday				
39	Wreaths/ refreshments	50.00	42	Parish Boundary signs	3,000.00
40	Fee for bugler	30.00	43	Purchase of second defibrillator	1,500.00
			44	Unallocated reserves	10,000.00

	Village Hall				
45	Maintenance/upgrading kitchen	10,000.00	51	Water Plus	1,500.00
46	Supplies	300.00	52	ASH Waste collection	1,100.00
47	Hall cleaning	3,500.00	53	Fire equipment maintenance	200.00
48	Window cleaning	600.00	54	PPS – licence for music	220.00
49	British Gas	2,000.00	55	Wi-Fi service	700.00
50	Scottish Power	1,500.00			
	SUB-TOTAL	76,715.00		SUB-TOTAL	103,880.00
	GRAND TOTAL	180,595.00			

GRANTS

The Council operates a grants scheme. Generally, grants can be made to help local voluntary and community groups. A total of £1,000 is allocated each year and the maximum for any one grant is £250.

Application forms can be requested from the Clerk or downloaded from the Parish Council's website.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Our partnership with the Cheshire East Borough Councillors continues. There are three Ward Councillors for the area – Councillors Dorothy Flude, Steven Hogben and David Marren. Councillor Marren was welcomed to his first Parish Council meeting, as a Ward representative, on 8 May 2019.

Councillor Steven Edgar, the former Ward Councillor for the area, did not re-stand in Shavington and is now the Ward Councillor at Haslington, and also the Deputy Mayor of Cheshire East Council.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has finished the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan which has now completed its Regulation 14 consultation. The next stage is for the Steering Group to consider observations made during the consultation process and to make any amendments which are considered appropriate.

The revised draft will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval and will, eventually, be subject to independent examination. After this, there will be a referendum when registered electors will be asked to vote to accept the Neighbourhood Plan as a document which Cheshire East Council must take into consideration when determining planning applications.

MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We welcome residents to our meetings and particularly to the Annual Parish Meeting which is for local residents (who are registered electors) to discuss parish affairs. Resolutions may be passed at this meeting and the Parish Council is obliged to consider these at its next meeting but not, necessarily, to accept the proposals.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Dates of full Council meetings were given in the June 2019 newsletter, but are as follows:

8 May 2019 – Annual Council	8 January 2020
5 June	5 February
26 June (Extra-ordinary)	4 March
10 July (exceptionally on the second Wednesday)	1 April
7 August	6 May – Annual Council
4 September	
2 October	
6 November	
4 December	

PARISH COUNCIL

As a reminder, the Parish Council has several notice-boards (1) outside the Village Hall; (2) outside the former Co-op Store on Main Road; (3) Dodds Bank, adjacent to NISA; (4) outside Hickory's Smoke House (former Cheshire Cheese Public House); and (5) Fuller Drive (adjacent to the New Life Church).

The calendar of meetings is published in the notice-boards and on occasions, the front sheet of the agenda is also displayed. Agendas are published at least three clear days before each meeting and are uploaded onto the website which is www.shavingtononline.co.uk.

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of any information, please contact the Clerk (clerk@shavingtononline.co.uk) or phone 01270 262636.

PLANNING

One of the main consultative roles of parish councils, and of great importance, is to comment on local planning applications which may have a positive or detrimental impact on the community.

We have seen many large-scale developments in the last few years and we hope that the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan will enable us to influence how decisions are taken in future by Cheshire East Council (CEC) as the local planning authority.

A Neighbourhood Plan is intended to act as part of the defence against unwanted and unplanned development.

POLICE

Although crime is relatively low in the parish, the Parish Council is fortunate that PCSO Pete Corbett maintains a visible presence in the village to deter any potential criminals.

If you see something out of place, you can either telephone the emergency line (999) if it is a genuine emergency, or telephone 101.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall has undergone some major upgrading during 2018 and it was closed for about six months.

The toilets were upgraded, the main hall ceiling was replaced and there have been decoration works throughout.

Later in the year, the Parish Council will be considering changes in the way the Village Hall is managed and this will include longer-term arrangements. A village hall specialist from Cheshire Community Action will be attending a meeting later in 2019 to explore various options.

At present, the hall is managed through the goodwill of councillors who have taken on the responsibility. One of those was former Councillor Bill McIntyre but he stood down as a councillor in 2018. It is now managed by Councillor Kevin Gibbs and his wife, Andrea, with able support from Councillor Vivien Adams.

An automated telephone booking service has been introduced and this enables clients to make enquiries which are passed to Councillor Gibbs, who will then deal with the booking.

If you wish to make a booking you can e-mail villagehall@shavingtononline.co.uk or phone 01270 262636, selecting option 1 to make a booking.