



## **Finance**

With careful financial monitoring the precept this year has been reduced and funding available has been earmarked to continue, with the use of grants, to make improvements and to maintain the Council's biggest asset – our playing field. Money has also been earmarked to continue to provide our quarterly newsletter, distributed to all households in East Huntspill and Bason Bridge, as well as continuing to subsidise and support the 67 bus until April 2019, along with other councils along its route.

Finance is an agenda item at every parish council meeting, so that all councillors have a responsibility and awareness of payments and costs. All payments must be approved at each council meeting, and current bank statements and budget information are circulated at every meeting. Subsequently all cheques and invoices are checked and signed by the two councillors proposing and seconding the payment approval.

The annual audit continues to be conducted by the external auditor.

## **Personnel**

The parish council has two employees: the clerk, working 35 hours per month, and the village ranger who works 8 hours per week, line managed by the clerk. Both have annual appraisals providing the opportunity to look at achievements and any issues, as well as plan for the coming year. All councillors and both employees are encouraged to improve their knowledge and skills through attending relevant courses when available.

## **Road and Transport Report - Matters arising during the year**

- a. At last the HGV's going to Woolavington Water Park have stopped and as we have said all along the new velodrome structure is NOT being built. The stress caused to all the parishioners in East Huntspill by this diabolical situation which never should have been allowed is unmeasurable. Now the owner has made his money using the site as a dump and has sold off the site. This site is now being proposed for a very large caravan park and is a great cause of concern to the residents of East Huntspill. A recent planning application to Woolavington Parish Council was put in for 207 Static caravans by a large company. I asked Woolavington Parish Council "are we going to have another 500 HGV's delivering stone or concrete for the caravan bases, followed by 207 HGV's delivering the caravans?" after which, we are due to see up to 200 cars driving through our VILLAGES and please note, we are both villages, although living in East Huntspill feels like we are living in the middle of an Industrial Estate. Woolavington Parish Council objected to this development at the meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- b. I asked Woolavington Parish Council, "would they approve an extra 200 houses in Woolavington?"

The police have been contacted on numerous occasions with regard to speeding cars and HGV's. Speeding and accidents in East Huntspill seem to be a low priority for the police, although they are aware of the problem, but we are being told that this issue is being addressed as resources allow.

- c. One speed indicator device (S.I.D.) has been purchased by the Parish Council. Two councillors have attended a special training course and are now qualified to fit these new S.I.D.'s in East Huntspill. Experience at Brent Knoll shows that the results sent to the police by the Parish Council, have been acted upon and this is why our Parish Council have decided to install these in the hope of reducing speeding in the village. East Huntspill Parish Council has agreed to share the SID with Burnham Without Parish Council and Mark Parish Council are looking at the possibility of joining us. This will reduce the price paid by EHPC. SCC are now offering the SID programme to all Parish Councils at £100 per time, which of course we will not have to consider as we have our own SID.
- d. Two Parish Councillors (Chairman & Vice Chairman) had a meeting with Sedgemoor Highways on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to bring the following matters to the attention of Highways. 1. Cote Corner traffic speeding and numerous HGV's using this narrow road. 2. Junction of Withy Road and Church Road speeding. 3. Watchfield Corner speeding. Officers from the Highways Dept. said they would look into these problems. It was stated that the Cote Corner issue was difficult as it was outside the village speed limit. No replies have been received to date.
- e. The Parish Council have not received any information from National Grid (a private company) when they will start using Factory Lane Road for the building of the new pylons in this area although SDC said it should be 2020 start.
- f. We have reported some pot holes and road damage over the past year, which some have been repaired and the remainder should be on this coming year's list.

## **Communications Report**

Website Updating with: Agendas and Minutes, Policies and Audits & Declarations of Interest for the Parish Council; Bus Service Information; News and Events for East Huntspill and local area; Updates on local services, ie recycling and refuse info; and ensuring compliance with GDPR.

Social Media Facebook continues to be a useful way of communicating within East Huntspill and at present there are 321 members of this group. The communication mainly being events hosted by EHPC and notifications. This is also a good way of getting feedback immediately. We have updated some of IT equipment, but after discussion we will persevere with the overhead projector we are currently using.

Magazine - The previous editor of the magazine resigned and in order to continue with the magazine and I became editor during the summer 2017. The Parish Councillors continue to also all deliver the magazine each quarter and also recently our very helpful parish clerk, Jane Moreton. There have been lots of articles, pictures and editorial, including: Harvest Home, Bason Bridge Station, Affordable Housing, village bus service, Secret World.

## **Planning notes for the year end**

It's been a busy year again for planning with 41 planning applications including 2 for affordable housing sites. Of the 41 30 were granted 5 were withdrawn before consideration 4 were refused and we have 2 on going. We have 1 planning appeal on going.

Affordable housing we are still working with Sedgemoor to try and deliver the 18 affordable homes that are wanted in the village.

## **Open Spaces**

The Parish Council continue to consider improvements that can be made to our playing field to provide facilities for all ages and abilities.

The Pavilion is nearly complete and will also provide changing facilities for those using the sports field.

The fencing is in need of some TLC and will be made good. There will be a new piece of equipment (a low level roundabout) installed this summer; that will have access for wheelchairs and buggies. This has been done by grant funding through building subsidy. The Parish Council have decided to employ a specialist company to inspect our playing fields and equipment on a quarterly basis to help with the maintenance funding issues.

There will be a refurbished sign at the playing fields thanks to Mr Woolley

There have been more bulbs planted again last year for us all to enjoy this spring.

Would you like to see Our Bus shelters and Telephone box taking on a new role?

This is our village and our open spaces need to be kept clean and tidy for us all to enjoy - please take your litter home!