



## **Highways**

The 30mph roundels at either end of the village were finally put in place and the road gullies were cleaned out and entrances made larger. Speeding continues to be an issue and consideration is now being given to 'watch your speed' digital signs. Resurfacing also took place at The Horns Inn and The Green.

## **Finance**

The Parish Council's finances are in a healthy position which is why it was decided to reduce the precept for the coming financial year. The council continues to look for ways to spend reserves for the benefit of the local community and new ideas are always welcome. Please contact any member of the parish council if you have an idea.

## **Parish Council Vacancy**

We continue to have a vacancy for a parish councillor. We are a small council and meet every two months. You are not employed by the council but represent the local community by being aware of local issues and campaigning on behalf of the Parish Council and residents. Please speak to any councillor or the parish clerk if you are interested in the role.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their work and support during the last year – Siriol Hogg, Colin Lambert and Karen Davies.

I am also sure my fellow councillors would like to join me in thanking our Clerk for all her hard work during the past year.

*Resolved: The Chairman's report was accepted*

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

### **Responsible Financial Officer Report 2019**

The Parish Council began the year with funds of £10,333 a slight increase due to frugal spending, but maintaining service standards and completing the year with a balance of £15,388. Importantly the Parish Council holds the Churchtown Flood Action Group funds as the Parish's public body.

### **Income**

Amenity grass cutting, devolved from Lancashire County Council, continues with a slight increase and Parish Lengthsman Scheme payments remain at the same rate: the claimed VAT decreased as fewer payments were made. The bank interest rose with the additional amount of funds held

Donation income is an out of date cheque returned to bank and incorrect HMRC payment. Kirkland Parish Council holds the working balance for Churchtown Flood Action Group, for which the committee continues to work hard to source funding.

### **Expenditure**

The parish grounds maintenance contract continues with Catterall Parish Council and offers a continuation of service, well received by residents, who can see where their precept is spent. Staff costs have increased slightly from the previous year with a number of additional meetings due to non-quorate meetings and Flood Action decisions.

Due to negotiations the cost of insurance decreased although subscriptions have risen slightly and audit regulations for small Parish Councils, under £25,000, has meant the

accounts needed only to be verified by an internal auditor and an exemption certificate. This will change for the coming year; with the amount of funds being held for the Flood Action Group. Reclaimable VAT remains static against last year.

Parish maintenance increased as issues were found and solved by the Parish Lengthsman. The lengthsman retired in February and the Parish Council looks forward to many years with the new Parish Lengthsman.

Donations include £279 to St. Helen's Church for the upkeep of the graveyard, the village Christmas tree and refreshments at the switch-on and the Royal British Legion. A donation of £1,000 went to the Memorial Hall for the grass cutting on the field.

The Churchtown Flood Action Group has fought for and engineered the construction of the Churchtown Bund with monitory assistance from the Environment Agency to protect the village against the threat of residential flooding.

**Balance to date to carry forward**

**Total Receipts £118,208.68**

**Total Expenditure £109,723.99**

Therefore Kirkland Parish Council is carrying forward **£8,484.69.**

£1,535.09 is held on behalf of the Churchtown Flood Action Group.

**Kirkland Parish Council Balance £6,949.60**

*Resolved: The Responsible Financial Officer's report was accepted*

**ANNUAL REPORTS:**

**6. Wyre Councillors Peter Cartridge**

Cllr. Cartridge is newly elected, but has already got interested in Churchtown's flooding issues and problems with the brewery and the Punchbowl. He has been appointed to the Licensing and audit committees in Wyre.

**7. Voluntary Organisations:**

**School House Trust**

Cllr. Mrs. K. Davis reported on her initial meeting the trust is in a good financial position and has funded improvement to the school kitchen.

**Representative on Kirkland and Catterall Memorial Hall**

Cllr. C. Lambert reported the sponsored walk made £85 towards funds and once the outside rendering is finished it will be painted.

**Churchtown Flood Action Group**

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg has spoken to the government about community engagement, as there is no funding for flood impact in Lancashire. The group is meeting with flood risk managers including United Utilities, Environment Agency, Wyre Rivers Trust and Lancashire County Council. They hope to carry out a leaky dams and attenuation project where each local farmer who installs a leaky dam will be paid £300, but this will take £30,000 to set up.

There is an underspend on the embankment, but more drainage is needed. The opening event will be held on 22nd August. Lancashire County Council enlarged the gullies on the A586, but when the Ainspool is high the non-return valve does not allow the pipes to empty. Following a report of the Ainspool a dry river bed was found and the land on which the village bund stands is full of sand lenses, which allow water to flood back into houses during flooding.

**8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There were no matters raised by residents.

*There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.20pm.*

Date .....

Chairman.....