

Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2018-19

This report is a summary of the actions and decisions taken by Saughall and Shotwick Park Parish Council over the last Municipal Year. This will be the last report of this Council before the local elections in May. Besides this Annual Report we try to keep you up-to-date through our regular Council meetings, our website, articles in the Parish Council Newsletter and via the notice boards in the village.

I believe we continue to provide value for money in respect of the work we do on behalf of the community.

It was with sadness, in November, that we learned of the death of Peter Bond who had lived in the village all his life. He was on the Parish Council for over thirty years, serving as Chairman for much of this time. He also chaired the Cheshire Association of Parish Councils in the 1980's. Peter will be very much missed and we give thanks for his generosity of spirit.

Planning

One of the Councils aims is to encourage the planning authority Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) to support sensible development while maintaining the openness of the green belt. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications. We have this year considered and submitted observations on over twenty applications. We have expressed concern over a number of planning applications from properties on Parkgate Road and offered suggestions over the development of the Pear Tree Farm site.

Policing

At our Council meetings we receive monthly crime reports. PC Rob Brown and the PCSO are often in attendance. We are pleased to see PCSO Wendy Leason back on duty after an extended period of absence. We are grateful to the Police for their valuable contribution to

the reduction of crime and disorder and the promotion of public reassurance

Golden Jubilee Park

It is very encouraging to see how much use is being made of the upgraded children's play area. It was opened by the Lord Mayor of Chester last March. We have just signed a contract with WE Parsons & Co Ltd for the construction of a BMX cycle and scooter track on the Park. Work on this development should be completed during May. A Grounds Maintenance contract is currently being drawn up with the Cricket Club for their continued excellent work on the maintenance of all the grassed areas.

Remembrance Sunday

2018 was a commemorative year marking a hundred years since the ending of WW1. Two services were held at the village War Memorial one at 11am and then the main one in the afternoon. Thanks to all those who helped organise these important village events. The Parish Council purchased a special commissioned commemorative bench which has now been placed near the War Memorial. A commemorative tree has been planted in the children's play area. This has been paid for by the local Co-op Store. The manager of the Co-op and some of the local Brownies were involved in the simple ceremony, helped by Helen Cakebread, the Parish Tree and Environmental Warden.

Bus Services

The Council is very concerned about the proposed cancellation of the school buses to the Bishops' and Upton High Schools. This will make life so much more difficult for families in the village. We are currently in discussion with CWaC and Stagecoach over this matter. It would seem that the 15/15a bus service is now a regular and reliable service. We must emphasize the old adage 'Use it or lose it'.

Saughall Medical Centre

A Council representative recently met with the Centre manager, along with some patient representatives to air complaints that the Parish Council had received. It was felt that these complaints were not being

addressed by the standard complaints procedure. The meeting was helpful and productive and hopefully will result in a number of improvements. Though it was emphasised that the surgery was a branch surgery not a village surgery and as such its services will be limited.

New Public Footpaths for Saughall

Over the past few years the footpaths around Saughall, have been converted, with the help of the Council from 'Permissive Paths', one which required the owner's continued permission to use them to 'Public Rights of Way' (PROW) where they will remain protected by law and open to the public. Recently we were in discussions with Shotwick House Management Committee to convert the last path alongside their driveway into a PROW. These discussions have now been completed by the signing of a legal document. The Council is now improving this new PROW alongside Shotwick House by cutting back vegetation and installing a new 200metre field side fence. A new revised updated map of all the Parish Footpaths has recently been completed thanks to the hard work of a number of Parish Councillors. The Council has decided to hand-deliver, a free copy, to every household in the Parish. We urge you to get your walking boots on and enjoy the magnificent Saughall scenery!

Traffic Management

As a Council we continue to be concerned about the volume and speed of traffic travelling through the village. We have been actively involved in discussions with CWaC over this issue. The Council would like to purchase and install speed detection equipment which would both collect data and send an appropriate message to speeding motorists. There is talk of altering the speed limit down Long Lane. We are pleased to note that there has been an increase in speed checks along Hermitage Road from the permanent Police Bay at the Peg.

Affordable Housing Scheme

The Council has agreed to work with CWaC to obtain funding to build some affordable houses on a site opposite Thomas Wedge Close. For this to happen we need to demonstrate the need for such housing. A

Housing Survey will be circulated to all properties in Saughall. I would encourage all residents to complete the survey and return it. The funding from Central Government is dependent on it.

Village Organisations

We are fortunate in Saughall that there are a large number of clubs, societies and organisations that very much enrich village life. The Council, this year, has set up an Award Scheme encouraging local groups to apply for funding for a special project that they wish to start or continue. A special fund of £4k has been established to encourage and support such groups.

We have financially supported the Vernon Institute as its Management Committee has undertaken a large refurbishment of this important village landmark. We continue to support the work of the Neighbourhood Management Team that works to improve the local environment and quality of life. It arranges and runs the Summer Play Scheme and last summer organised the Scarecrow Competition.

Village Amenities

An extra set of Christmas lights was put in place over the festive period and have been appreciated by residents. We have been asked to consider for next Christmas another set being placed on a short stretch of Hermitage Road from Church Road. This will need to be costed before a decision is made. Two extra flower tubs have been purchased for the village and we are looking for further sites for additional ones. Mobile phone reception continues to be poor in the village. We have offered a site at the far end of the Golden Jubilee Park as a possible site for a mast. This will be advertised nationally and we shall wait and see if any interest is expressed.

Fairholme Close and Willow Hey Drainage Issues

Unfortunately little progress has been made in sorting out the flooding that is affecting a number of residents. This is despite the involvement of the local MP, Ward Councillor and the Parish Council. Another meeting has been called for April.

Finance

At the budget meeting in January the Council agreed a budget for the year 2019/20 of £80,297. This means that the Council will require from CWaC, a precept of £63,057. This also means that for another year there has been no increase in the Parish tax requirement. Financial details are attached.

In Conclusion

I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their input, hard work and advice to ensure the Council does the best it can for Parishioners. We have successfully completed and discharged all our duties while remaining financially sound. As you can see from the Report the Council has had a busy year. Members do this on a purely voluntary basis. Thank you to Brian Crowe our CWaC ward Councillor for all his hard work, keeping us up to date with what is happening at Borough. As he retires after many years of 'active service' we wish him well for the future. Thanks to Helen Cakebread for her work as our Tree and Environmental Warden, also our internal auditor David Glavin and our Responsible Financial Officer Graham Hudspeth for their work on the accounts. Last but not least, thank you to our Parish Clerk Shirley Hudspeth for her work and support during the year.

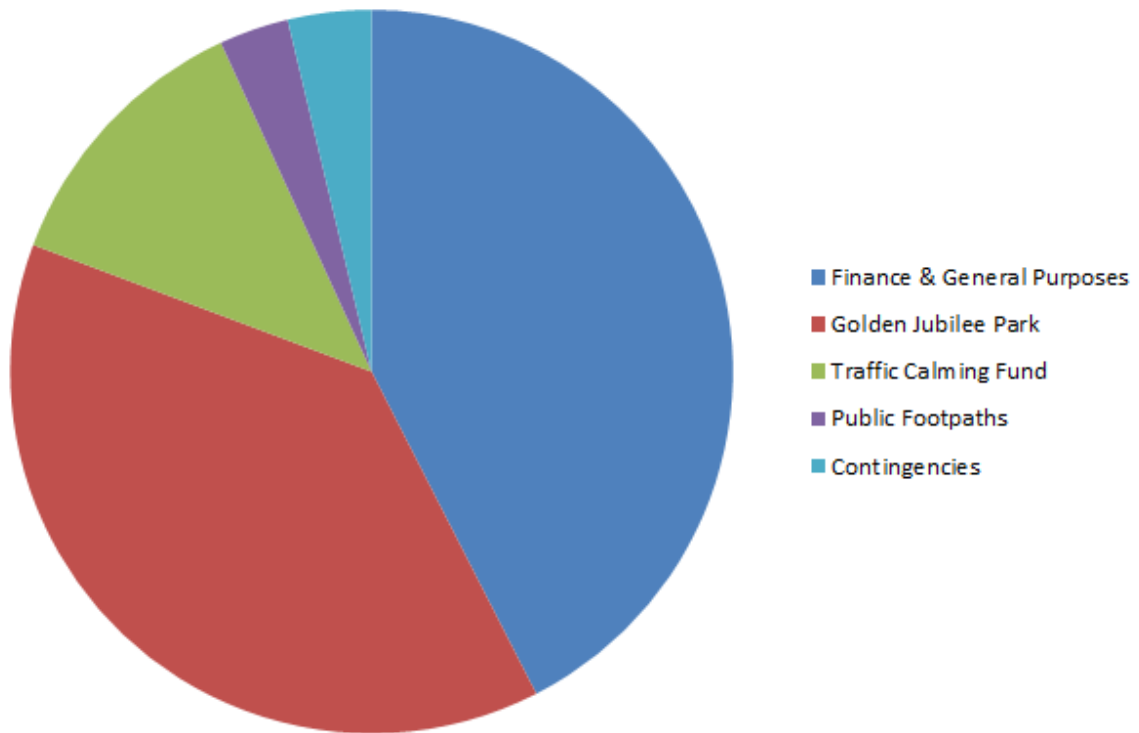
Peter Young

April 2019

Council Budget 2019/20

Budget Head	Allocation (£)
Finance & General Purposes	34,100
Golden Jubilee Park	30,697
Traffic Calming Fund	10,000
Public Footpaths	2,500
Contingencies	3,000
Total	80,297

How your money is spent



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