

CAWTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31.3.2019

The Parish Council continues to be on a sound financial footing. The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 were audited by both the internal and external auditors last summer and were found to be in good order. In accordance with legislation the audit report was displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board for 14 days after receipt of it and is displayed on the Parish Council website.

Bank balance as at 31st March 2019 was in the region of £48,522

A total of £3,183 was given out as grant aid in the financial year 2018/19

A grant of £3,650 was received towards the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Total receipts for 2018/19 were in the region of £32,026

Total payments for 2018/19 were in the region of £23,554

Budgeted running costs for the year 2019/20 are in the region of £43,869 including grant aid and an amount set aside for legal fees should the need arise.

The precept is remaining static at £21,000 with the shortfall of £22,869 coming out of reserves. The government decided not to cap town and parish precepts at 2% for the near future provided town and parish councils show restraint.

Reserves are adequate for any unforeseen events.

The accounts for the year 2018/19 will be audited this summer. Public notices will be displayed in due course as to when the audit period will be and the final audit report will be displayed after the audit has been completed. A smaller authority with neither receipts nor payments over £25,000 is now not obliged to have an external audit. Cawthorne Parish Council's receipts are over £25,000 so will have to have an external audit this year.

The Annual Governance statement, the internal audit report and year accounts for 2017/18 are available to view on the Parish Council website and the 2018/19 information will be available by 1st July 2019. Also on the website there is a list of councillor responsibilities, details of land held by the Parish Council and minutes and agendas for all council meetings.

S. Maxine Bashforth
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
1st April 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last year has had its problems but overall it has been very successful.

In March the Data Protection Act became law. Led by the Clerk a number of councillors attended courses leading to Cawthorne being up to date when the inaugural arrived. Barnsley stepped in and offered a Data Protection Officer free, thus solving a potential problem.

May was a mixed month as sadly Councillor Tony Butterworth resigned, but agreed to continue organising the Neighbourhood Plan, but we had a wonderful reception for the “Tour de Yorkshire “even getting good footage on the television!

In June we were informed our numbers had to drop in 2019 from 9 to 7, a number we consider small for an effective council. Councillor Sharon Pitt resigned, but as after advertising the fact, no one asked for an election, it was decided to ask for applications to become councillors. Stephen Eyre and David Barron were welcomed as the successful candidates and Councillor Peter Kilner chosen as Vice Chairman.

During this time Yorkshire Water was contacted over the condition of Dark Lane. The state of the village roads, with dangerous pot holes, was referred to Barnsley Council, as was the nonappearance of the traffic report Barnsley Council promised on parking, and the accidents on the New Road.

The Council agreed to pay for the maintenance of the defibrillator in the centre of the village and Andrew Barker agreed to be the “guardian” and to keep checking it is up to date.

The clearing of the Old Cemetery was undertaken followed by the ground being levelled and seeded. Undertakers being asked to remove clay rather than dump it in the hedge bottoms creating a very unsightly aspect in the cemetery. A careful watch has been kept on headstones, especially in the churchyard, and Barnsley Council Cemetery department are to be appointed to undertake all necessary safety checks.

A list of Heritage Assets has been established for the inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Council has engaged Woodall Planning and Conservation to help in preparing a report to extend the Conservation Area. Cawthorne is now such a popular village, it is in danger of being developed inappropriately and we need to protect it. The work on the lakes in the Park was a disappointment as it was of such poor standard, despite our remonstrations, as was the loss of the parts of the old Golf Course.

Councillor Asquith resigned but said she was happy to continue planting and caring for the flower pots she currently plants and cares for. Being close to an election and the downsizing it was decided not to replace her.

After much discussion it was decided to have hanging baskets on lamp posts sponsored by anyone interested in doing so.

The end of the year was the culmination of a huge effort masterminded by Tony Butterworth, to prevent land behind Darton Road and Stanhope Avenue being allocated for housing as part of the Barnsley Local Plan. A traffic count, numerous reports, meetings and a barrister contributed and Mr Butterworth attended the Inspector’s meetings at Barnsley Council. In January - success! House building not to be considered for 33 years. A wonderful result for everyone.

As retiring Chairman I extend the grateful thanks of myself, the Council and the Village to Maxine Bashforth, our very knowledgeable and competent Clerk to the Council, to Ken Arundel our internal auditor for the Council and accountant for the Neighbourhood Plan, to Tony Butterworth for the work on the Barnsley Local Plan, to all the volunteers who are working on our Neighbourhood Plan and last but certainly not least, to Diana Asquith, Tony Butterworth, Sharon Pitt and all the current Cawthorne Councillors for their hard work over the last year on behalf of the villagers of Cawthorne.

Councillor Cynthia Hindley, Chairman

PLANNING COMMITTEE

During this period we held just two separate planning meetings here in the Moxon Room - all other planning applications were viewed and discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

BMBC planning department continue to approve applications that, contrary to our repeated protestations and in our opinion, are too large for the plot. Although, in one particular case, the finished extension has been extremely well built and does appear 'seamless' to the original. I am pleased to say that the builder lives in the village and completed a similar extension to his own dwelling following purchase.

We did have some success stories in as much as we prevented the demolition of two properties with historic importance in the village. No.2 Hill Top was saved from demolition but a second amendment was passed allowing only to extend the old part of the building.

Secondly we appealed against the demolition of the two neighbouring Arts and Crafts inspired bungalows on Tivydale and Tivydale Close. Thankfully, the first has been saved with some amendments, but BMBC sadly ignored our plea to keep No 1 Tivydale Close and this is now razed to the ground as well as the mature garden.

All these three properties saw heavy involvement and interception from the conservation officer from BMBC who is undoubtedly sympathetic to our lovely village.

Parish Council and Planning Committee had made the decision to extend the Conservation Area to include important dwellings and green spaces excluded from the original plan drawn up in the '70's. Therefore Councillors Barr, Kilner and myself met with the conservation officer for information and advice. He was very helpful and further suggested that we meet with the Neighbourhood Planning Officer for BMBC to tell us more about available grant funding. This we did and she told us that the process should be done by the Neighbourhood Plan Group alongside their own grant application. From this session we reported back to the Parish Council who then spoke to the Neighbourhood Plan Group who declined to get involved with this task. The group then ricocheted the work process back to the Parish Council. A request was printed in the Parish Notes and posted on-line, asking for enthusiastic volunteers and anyone with relevant experience to come forward, please. No further progress was made up to my resignation date of 6.12.18.

To end on a very good note - the village store, after waiting two years for a BMBC decision, after much appeal, discussions and site meetings with our local councillors, universal support from ourselves and parishioners, has been granted retrospective planning approval. The Village Store and Tea Room indoors and out with parking available is now official! Thank you to everyone for their efforts to win this most wanted and needed approval.

Councillor Diana Asquith

Chairman, Planning Committee

4th April 2019.