

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Once again the Parish Council managed to end the year in budget with a modest surplus of slightly under £3,000 which was due predominately to us spending frugally on general administration, training and not needing to use the contingency budget this year.

Unfortunately financial support from the City Council has been reduced for the coming year resulting in an increased village precept.

We continued to support community swimming in the area .and also made grants to support the village Christmas tree, with additional lights purchased to add to the ones we bought last year.

It was another busy year for planning applications in the Parish, with 27 applications processed in total, with the majority being permitted without major objections from the Parish Council. We did however successfully support local residents in their objections to proposed 24 hrs opening at McDonalds Restaurant and Glington Service Station. We also apposed the change of use from a vacant field to a gypsy and traveller site at Bedford Yard on Waterworks Lane, but this application didn't progress to a full City Council Planning Committee as a local resident purchased the land from the applicant.

A joint working party has been formed between AMVC and representation from the Parish Council to discuss ways of improve neighborhood relations within the village.The first meeting took place in March & the group will continue to meet each term.

Traffic Enforcement Officers have been to Helpston Road in an attempt to reduce parking issues around the College, and the working group have discussed ways that this could be improved in the future.

Work was undertaken earlier in the year at the Lawn Cemetery to successfully secure 16 unstable memorials and more recently some of the grassed areas have been levelled and and re-turfed.

Replacement trees were planted by Councillors on the playing field after we successfully secured an Enviro Grant from the City Council who contributed to the cost of the trees.

A number of litter picks have taken place around the village again this year thanks to Claire Bysse for organising and for McDonalds for assisting who have also undertaken their own regular litter picks throughout the year.

Councillors have also been very busy representing you at various forums including Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (PALC), City Council Parish Liaison, Rural North Neighbourhood Committee, Police Panels, Clare Lodge, Northern Footpath Forum, AMVC Pool & Glington Youth Club. Their attendance at Parish Council meetings throughout the year has been maintained from last year at a very creditable 88%.

Dave Ellis retired as Clerk in December after 8 years in the role, but before leaving he designed and launched the Councils new website together with a new contact e mail for the Clerk.

The Localism Act 2011 created a range of measures to provide more power to local communities. This included allowing local communities to guide development within their local area through the production of a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order.

As a result earlier this year along with Deeping Gate, Northborough & Peakirk Parish Councils we applied to the City Council to establish our Parish as a designated Neighbourhood area.

This will give us the opportunity to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in our neighbourhood, including where additional new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like. It will be considered alongside Peterborough's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework when the City Council is deciding planning applications from within our Parish and allow local residents to have much more say over developments that take place within our community.

There will be lots more news about this as our plans are developed throughout the coming year.