

NASEBY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS REPORT 2018 / 2019

COUNCILLORS

During the last year or two, many long standing and extremely valuable Councillors have decided to pass the mantle to people newer to the village. I'd like to take this opportunity to pass my sincere thanks to Mike Schelts, Denise Young and to long serving Greg Pritchett and Pauline Vann all of whom left this year and have contributed a huge amount in different ways, as well as to those who have worked so hard for the benefit of the village in the past.

We end the year with Paul Reedman, Steve Howat, Penny Nicholson, Lyn Dyett, Phil Carter, Rachael Johnson and Stephen Davies. We have one vacancy.

Thanks to all Councillors for their work in the last year but particularly to Steve Howat for his support as Vice Chairman.

MEETINGS

In the year we have had 10 normal plus 3 additional council meetings, the Annual Parish Meeting in May, a public meeting concerning bus services and a public defibrillator training session.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been no major applications during the year. 13 applications of various types have been examined and commented upon.

We received our first community infrastructure levy (CIL) contribution of £7,524 arising from the two new houses adjacent to the village hall corner. It represents 15% of the CIL amount paid to Daventry by the developer and has to be spent within 5 years on new infrastructure. If we had an approved neighbourhood plan the CIL amount would have been 25%.

FRANCIS JACKSON DEVELOPMENT

Construction of the 20 Francis Jackson houses at Hammond Mews and Catton Close has been completed and at the time of writing all but 5 are occupied.

The public open space (POS) adjacent to Hammond Mews was adopted by the Parish Council in March 2019 and we are now responsible for its maintenance including grass cutting. On its adoption Francis Jackson made payments to the Council of £25,852 to be specifically used for play equipment adjacent to the village hall and £5,500 towards the future maintenance of the new POS.

A sum of £2,000 originally originally allocated to provide a bus stop pole and sign has still to be recovered from the County Council.

NASEBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Council made a grant of £1,750 to the NSA in 2018 towards fitting out their double decker bus as a library. The library is now in use.

VILLAGE HALL PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT

A 21 year lease from the Village Hall Committee is under preparation by solicitors. The lease will clarify that the Parish Council is responsible for everything within the play area and removes areas of split responsibility with the Village Hall Committee.

We have been very successful in gaining grants for the play area with £10,000 of Lottery funding and £15,000 awarded by Daventry District Council. The current budget of £67,740 for play area equipment and its installation is made up from:

Francis Jackson S106 money	£25,852
Parish Council Reserve	£15,000
Lottery Grant	£10,000
Daventry District Council Grant.	£15,000

Just Giving and Friends
of Naseby Play Area Fundraising. £888
Total £67,740

All play area expenditure has been assumed to be spent in 2019/20.

The Friends of Naseby Play Area Group have worked very hard in submitting grant applications and undertaking a tender exercise to determine a preferred specialist play equipment contractor and we hope to commence construction during the summer

GRANTS

Parish council grant awards for the year 2019/20:

- (a) At the time of writing a grant to the Village a Hall Committee towards maintenance and running costs of the village hall and playing field had not been decided. A sum has been allowed for in the budget.
- (b) £1,000 to the local First Responder organisation to purchase emergency equipment.
- (c) £104 to Ducklings Pre School.

GRASS CUTTING

2019 is the final year of a 3 year contract for our two grass cutting contracts.

Maximow who cut the village hall playing field.

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance who cut road verges, the churchyard, the village hall play area and the area adjacent to the car park plus the path from High Street alongside the allotments. This year we have added the new POS adjacent to Hammonds Mews and monthly cutting of the footpath between the village hall and Cottesbrooke Road.

BUSES

Northamptonshire removed all bus subsidies from the 22nd July 2018. At that time Naseby had a 60 service to Northampton with two buses per day Monday to Saturday.

The bus route was about to shut down when Daventry District Council generously stepped in to preserve the rural bus service up to the end of March 2019 and a modified service was introduced. For Naseby this provided a single 60 shopping bus to Northampton and a single 59 shopping bus to Market Harborough, both running Monday to Friday.

For the year 2019/20 Northamptonshire has been awarded Government transport funding which has allowed them to provide £17,000 towards the £32,000 cost of the 60/59 bus services, leaving £15,000 outstanding.

A number of parish councils along the bus routes have agreed to fund the shortfall and following a public meeting in the village, Naseby Parish Council's contribution was agreed at £2,700.

The Council's precept of £30,500 for the year beginning April 1st was set in January 2019. This is the Parish Council element of your council tax and it included for the first time an amount earmarked for public transport.

SPEED DISPLAY UNIT

The speed display unit now has a schedule of six sites around which the unit will be rotated.

DAVENTRY SETTLEMENTS AND COUNTRYSIDE LOCAL PLAN PART 2

This plan covers the period up to 2029 and has been prepared in accordance with Government guidelines which require several stages and extensive public consultation. In its final stage it is submitted to Government who appoint a planning inspector to determine if it is compliant. This is undertaken via a public inquiry examination after which the Inspector can require modifications before final approval.

Daventry sent their Submission version to the Government in December 2018 and an Inspector has been appointed who will commence its examination in Spring/Summer 2019 with adoption of the plan anticipated late in 2019.

Naseby has been classified as a Secondary Service Village where limited residential development will be allowed, but only within the settlement boundary shown on a Naseby Inset Map. This boundary has been drawn very tightly around existing development. Fields adjacent to existing housing have been excluded.

Following the Parish Council's consultation response in January 2018, the village hall playing field, the allotments and the obelisk site on Clipston Road have been shown as Local Green Spaces.

Daventry maintains that it has a housing land supply in excess of both the Government's requirement of a 5 years supply and the rural area housing target number up to 2029. This should mean that speculative residential planning applications outside the Naseby village settlement boundary are unlikely to succeed, providing the local plan is adopted without increases in housing numbers.

KELMARSH WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND

Following over two years of negotiations with the wind farm owner and Charity Commissioners the community fund is now able to accept applications for grants from organisations within the 4 benefitting villages (Naseby, Kelmarsh, Haselbech and Clipston).

Our two village representatives Paul Kelly and Scott Westaway have been heavily involved in the negotiation process and the drafting of documentation.

It will be very interesting to see details of the initial awards for any of the 4 villages as this will inevitably spark ideas for similar grant applications.

PRECEPT 2019/2020

The Parish Council sets a precept each year to cover its projected costs for the year ahead. This together with a relatively small mowing grant from the County Council has to cover everything, grass cutting, street lighting, clerks salary, grant awards, village hall rent, projects, church clock maintenance, councillor and clerk training, Village Pride activities, Xmas tree funding etc. The precept is collected on our behalf by Daventry District Council and paid to us in two equal instalments.

The precept demand was increased from £29,500 in 2018/19 to £30,500 for 2019/20, a 3.3% real increase whereas your council tax bill shows only a 0.3% increase. The difference is due a number of new houses contributing rates for the first time.

Significant items included within the budget for 2019/20 which was used to set the precept were:

£70,000 - Play area improvement (equipment and construction)

£10,925 - Grass cutting (verges, churchyard, playing field and new POS)

£5,700 - Clerk salary and expenses

£3,250 - Village Hall Grant

£4,000 - Bus Transport

£3,000 - Play Area Lease (legal costs)

£2,162 - Street lighting

£1,500 - Information Board

£1,000 - Emergency First Responder Grant

£1,000 - Local Government Reorganisation (contingency related to county reorganisation).

£784 - Church Clock Maintenance

£700 - Insurance

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

It is now clear that the County Council and the 7 district councils within its area are to be split into two unitary authorities. A unitary authority has the duties and the powers of a county council and a district council.

Naseby will sit within West Northamptonshire, comprised of Northampton Borough, Daventry and South Northamptonshire councils together with half of the County Council. The other unitary, North Northamptonshire, will be comprised of Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire councils plus the other half of the County Council.

The new unitary councils are due to be created and be operational from the 1st April 2020. Prior to that shadow councils are to be put in place to carry out critical preliminary work deciding how the new councils will initially operate, combining functions, funds, staff, buildings, land, vehicles, plant and assets.

Initial meetings of senior officers and councillors from the respective councils within West Northamptonshire are now taking place. There is however mounting concern that the interminable BREXIT drama is preventing the passing of the necessary legislation to create the unitary authorities and their predecessor shadow councils.

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our volunteers assisting with moving and analysing results from the speed information display unit and our volunteers checking the defibrillator

Also thanks to Margaret Anderson and her Village Pride team and Sarah Farrell and her team who deliver Naseby News.

PARISH CLERK

Lastly many thanks to Katrina Jones for her professional approach and sound advice. She provided extremely valuable support to Councillors and we were sorry to accept her resignation.

We welcome our new very experienced clerk Josie Flavell who commenced work at the beginning of April. Josie does not live in the village so we will have some adjustments to make to our methods of working.

Paul Reedman
Chairman