

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for 2019/20

### COUNCILLORS

We have 8 Councillor seats but we have been running with only 7 during the year. Our current Councillors are Paul Reedman, Steve Howat, Penny Nicholson, Lyn Dyett, Phil Carter, Rachael Johnson and Stephen Davies.

Thanks to all Councillors for their work in the last year but particularly to Steve Howat as Vice Chairman and to Penny Nicholson who is stepping down. This will leave us with 2 vacant seats which we would dearly like to fill.

Due to Corona virus outbreak the period of service for existing parish Councillors has been extended by a year until elections are held in May 2021.

### MEETINGS

In the year we have had 10 normal plus 2 additional meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been no major applications during the year and 12 applications of various types have been examined and commented upon with one of these being considered several times due to amendments.

One notable application was for the new ballet school which was a welcome addition to the village.

### FRANCIS JACKSON DEVELOPMENT

Construction of all 20 Francis Jackson houses at Hammond Mews and Catton Close have been completed and occupied.

The Parish Council has finally received £2,000 from the County Council which was originally allocated to provide a bus stop pole and sign in the village. Many thanks to the original landowners and to Francis Jackson for facilitating this.

### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

We received no additional Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions this year and currently have £7,524 which arose from the two new houses adjacent to the village hall corner.

### GRANTS

Parish Council Grant awarded during 2019/20

- (a) Village Hall Committee £1,080 for tree surgery and £2,214 for village hall roof repairs.
- (b) £1,000 to the local First Responder organisation to purchase emergency equipment.
- (c) £104 to Ducklings Pre School.

### PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT

Installation of the new play equipment was undertaken by our contractor Kompan and it was formally opened on the 25th October. Funding has come from the following sources:

Francis Jackson S106 money	£25,850
Lottery Grant	£10,000
Daventry District Council Grant.	£15,000
Friends of Naseby Play Area	
Fundraising, Just Giving and	
Waitrose	£1,100
Parish Council	£16,220

Total to date £68,170

In addition the Kelmarsh Wind Community Benefit (KWCB) Charity awarded a grant to the Friends of Naseby Play Area which funded the steel fencing between the village hall and tennis courts.

Following the very wet winter a problem of water ponding within the junior zone has become apparent and it is intended to install land drains to deal with this at additional cost.

#### GRASS CUTTING

2019 was the final year of 3 year contracts for our two grass cutting contracts.

Following a competitive tender exercise new 3 year contracts have been awarded to Maximow to continue cutting the village hall playing field and to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to continue cutting road verges, the churchyard, the village hall play area and area adjacent to the car park, the public open space adjacent to Hammonds Mews and the paths from High Street alongside the allotments and between the village hall and Cottesbrooke Road.

#### BUSES

The 60 service to Northampton and 59 service to Market Harborough ran for the year with a single shopping bus operating Monday to Friday in each direction.

Parish Councils along the routes funded £15,000 of the cost with the balance provided by Daventry District Council after the County Council funding was withdrawn at the end of 2018/19. Naseby contributed £2,700.

Centrebus withdrew from their contract midway through the year and were replaced by UNO operating the same timetable.

For the year 2020/21 Northamptonshire County Council have indicated that they will fund the service provided that parish councils contribute £15,000 again. At the time of writing it looks likely to continue at least until mid July (end of school summer term). What happens thereafter depends on what restrictions are in place due to the progress Corona virus.

#### DAVENTRY LOCAL PLAN

The Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) was adopted for Daventry District Council in February 2020. It is now the document against which new development is judged for the period up to 2029.

#### KELMARSH WIND COMMUNITY BENEFIT

It is good to see that a number of grants have been made to village organisations during the year in addition to the play area fence, including for the purchase of stage lighting and sound equipment for use at the village hall.

#### PRECEPT 2020/21

The precept demand was increased from £30,500 in 2019/20 to £31,000 for 2020/21 a 1.6% real increase whereas your new council tax bill shows a 2.0% decrease. This is due to the council tax calculation undertaken by Daventry taking into account the new houses in the village which have been occupied during the year.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL REORGANISATION

The enabling legislative orders were finally passed to enable the reorganisation of Northamptonshire into two Unitary Councils from April 2021. Although the elections which were due to be held on the 7th May have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus pandemic it is believed that the startup of the two new Councils will not be delayed.

For 2020/21 the County Council and the 7 district councils including Daventry will continue to operate.

#### VILLAGE HALL

The Corona Virus has unfortunately forced the closure of the hall and cancellation of some events which will inevitably cause loss of income for the Village Hall Management Committee in the short term.

The hall is a valuable village asset which once again staged a well attended pantomime and more recently its first cinema event.

#### 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 for her Village Pride work which has now come to an end and Sarah Farrell and her team who deliver Naseby News.

#### CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK

We are in unknown territory with the outbreak and parish councils have been advised to adapt to new circumstances. Public council meetings are in the short term to be replaced by electronic /telephone meetings and the play area (and village hall) have been temporarily closed.

#### PARISH CLERK

Many thanks to our (new) clerk Josie Flavell who joined us in early April 2019 taking over from Katrina Jones. She has proved to be very capable and efficient and has always provided us with sound advice.

Paul Reedman  
Chairman  
Naseby Parish Council

28th March 2020