

**CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL,
PHIL COOPER, REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018**

Members of the Parish Council..... Phil Cooper (Chairman), Peter Waterhouse (Vice Chairman), Fiona Morrison (Acting Clerk to the Council), John Davison (Responsible Financial Officer) and Margaret Warrener. To contact the Council please email Fionamorrison@btinternet.com or ring the Chairman on 890982 or Fiona Morrison, the acting clerk, on 890885

Council held 6 Meetings during the year which were located in the Buckworth Cricket Club.

As is traditional the **Parish Footpath Walk** was held on May Day Bank Holiday Monday. About 10 villagers and a few dogs enjoyed the walk in good weather followed by the usual good homemade soup and rolls provided by Margaret Warrener at the Cricket Club. Chairman's Collection for Maps and Refreshments reached £60, donated this year to The **Acorn Cancer Support Group** who provide support in the community for cancer sufferers and carers in our area.

The planters created and installed for Buckworth 2014 Open Gardens continue to provide good colour and style to the village scene. Please help by watering once in a while, especially in hot dry weather.

After last year's big national event of **The Royal Birthday** – things were quiet on the Buckworth Parish Council event front this year. Next year 2008 is the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the Cricket Club in its current building so expect a party next year!

A meeting was set up by the Council with the rural policing group as a response to local parishioner's worries about increases in both frequency and severity of gypsy "petty" criminal activity in our area. Representatives of neighbouring parishes were invited to attend. At the meeting which was well attended it was explained that the increase appeared to be unchecked by law enforcement and featured an increasing involvement of firearms. The police explained their low staffing problems and reinforced the importance of members of the public officially reporting crimes and equally important intelligence.

In this way the magnitude of the problem is made clear and the case for more resources is enhanced. Equally an intel network between the villages gives warning of criminal activity and warns of the need to be vigilant. The local network is Next Door and is already quite well used for this and for ordinary buying and selling and adverts for local events etc

Financial Report.

At the start of the financial year the Parish Council had £4,792 in the bank. The major items of expenditure, budgeted for the year, were £2,028 for grass cutting and maintenance and £1,379 for the salary of the clerk. The major source of income for the year was the Parish Precept. This was set at £2,500 at the November 2016 Parish Council meeting, and was an increase of £4 from the previous year. Other sources of income included £2,000 from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (The Woolley Wind Farm Project) to be provide through the Parish Council to the Cricket Club for improvements benefiting the Club and the parish at large, and £228 towards grass cutting from Cambridgeshire County Council

At the end of the financial year the Parish Council had £5,530 in the bank versus a planned balance of £3,560 which produces a net savings for the year of £1970.

The significant under spend was principally due to the role of the clerk remaining unfilled, saving £1,379. This role is currently carried out by Councillor Morrison as Acting Clerk and Councillor Davison serves as Responsible Finance Officer; both of whom as councillors, are not allowed to accept remuneration for this work.

John Davison Responsible Finance Officer

You are all invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in the Cricket Club at 7.30p.m on May 21st 2018 to be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 8.00p.m.

REPORTS FROM OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Vicar Mary Jepp left in June 2017; during the interregnum we are lucky to have Rev'd Mandy Flaherty and lay readers Jim Hogg and Ken Maynard. The regular pattern of services continuesEvensong is now back at 6pm summer and winter (weather permitting), Morning Prayer is on the second Sunday at 11am and Communion on third Sunday of the month. Special services included one baptism, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, Carols by Candlelight (the Bishop of Ely attended this year) and Christmas Eve. The Annual Good Friday Walk around the Benefice took place in appalling weather walkers and supporters took communion in Steeple Gidding Church.

The roof of the north aisle now has nice new lead and