

**NORTH LUFFENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR 2017 – 18**

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 16th April 2018** in the School Hall. Whilst this brief summary highlights the work of the Parish Council over the past year, I do hope that you will be able to join us at the Parish Meeting to hear more of our work in the past year and our plans for the future. Most importantly the meeting allows all residents the opportunity to have a say on those Parish issues that are important to you. This will include the development at St George's Barracks as noted below.

Over the past three years the Parish Council have developed a number of key principles that have guided its work. These have included a need for strong governance, accountability and communication. We have reviewed every aspect of our work as both the Parish Council and as the Sole Trustee of the Recreation Ground and Field Gardens Charities. We have ensured that training remains a high priority for Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk and regularly review our procedures.

IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES

St George's Barracks Development. It goes without saying that the greatest challenge facing the Parish Council is how we can best influence the proposal to redevelop the site of St George's Barracks after the base closes in 2020/21. Rutland County Council have developed a Public/Public partnership with the MoD. As previously published, **the proposal is to build between 1,500 and 3,000 new homes on the site over the next 20 years. This we consider to be entirely unacceptable in terms of scale and indeed 'need'. In addition, it is proposed to develop the Eastern (North Luffenham) side of the airfield (approx 1/3 of the airfield area) as a quarry to extract essential minerals.**

The challenge for the Parish Council, working together with Edith Weston and other villages, is to ensure that any proposed development is 'Right for Rutland' and does not destroy the special nature of our village. To date we have developed a Joint North Luffenham / Edith Weston Working Group to consider policy issues and ensure that we are developing our ideas together and a North Luffenham Working Group whose role is to advise and assist the Parish Council in Environmental, Planning, Business and PR issues. The Joint Working Group have developed a Concerns/Considerations paper which has been published on the Village Website and sent to Sir Alan Duncan our MP, all County Councillors and all Rutland Parish Councils. It is intended that this should be an evolving document that captures our concerns as the project develops. **Have we got the key issues right? – If you wish your voice to be heard, do please attend the meeting. At the meeting you will be able to put your questions and concerns directly to Cllr Oliver Hemsley, and Helen Briggs, the Leader and the Chief Executive of RCC respectively.**

General Data Protection Regulations 2108. The Government have published new regulations concerning data protection and the management of personal data. This will require the Parish Council to review all the personal data that it currently holds, and to put into place new management processes to ensure that data is only used for the purposes for which it was collected. We will also need to review how we seek, record and manage 'consent' and whether we need to make any changes. A dedicated working group is taking this forward.

Village Survey. Thank you to everyone that completed the Village Survey questionnaire, hopefully you will have had a chance to read the excellent report that has been prepared by Tim Smith and his Working Group. The next step will be to identify what actions the PC might/should take to address the issues raised in the report. This will be discussed at a Special Meeting of the PC, to be held in the next few weeks.

PRECEPT – 18/19

By now you will have received your Council Tax Bill and will have noted that the North Luffenham precept had risen by almost 41%, compared to 0% increase last year and you may have wondered why. The precept for FY18/19 will be £13,136 (+£3,936). Three major decisions have impacted upon this:

- The cost of RCC Works related to the implementation of revised speed limit changes on Edith Weston Road (40 – 30mph) and Station Road (Unrestricted to 40 MPH) (+£2,639).
- Street lighting costs – imposed by RCC (+£679)

- Increase of Working Hours for Parish Clerk from 10 Hrs / Week to 11 hours / Week – (+£533).

PLAY EQUIPMENT

With thanks to Steve Marson the new zip wire, swing and climbing frame, which cost (£15,700) have been installed and are proving to be very popular. Some £25,000 still remains that can be allocated for further new equipment and/or the maintenance/refurbishment of our existing equipment. Charles Cade is leading on this project, and is looking for volunteers to assist in the identification of the right equipment, and the process of consultation, purchase etc. **Can you help??** If so please contact the Parish Clerk - nlparishclerk@outlook.com or myself.

CHARITABLE GRANTS

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money to support any organisation that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council. Under this provision in FY17/18 the PC made a grant to the Cricket Club of £25. A further grant of £500, under Section 214 (6), has been made to North Luffenham PCC to help cover the cost of maintenance of the churchyard, which is available for burial to all parishioners and not solely churchgoers.

VILLAGE DAY 2018

Many people have suggested that a further 'Village Day' should be arranged, however we have received no offers of support to try to organise such an event. We plan therefore to hold a simple village picnic / barbeque on the Oval on Sunday 20th May 18. This will be augmented by simple team games such as rounders. The event will run from 2.30 – 5pm. Ideas for help with further activities are most welcome

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Oval Trees** These have all been professionally inspected and a programme of works funded and instigated to ensure both the safety of the trees and their on-going good management and health.
- **Bonfire Night** was a huge success this year mainly thanks to those that volunteered to assist – we raised some £1542, which will be used to offset the costs of this year's event.
- **Dog Mess** The failure of some dog owners to clear up after their dogs is an issue that has been raised by parishioners on more than one occasion. We have put up more signs to remind people to behave responsibly, and continue to explore other ways of addressing this problem.
- **Cricket Club** – Sadly, it looks like the Cricket Club may 'fold' at the end of the Summer and we are putting together a working group to look at how this, and the future of the cricket pavilion, should be managed.

PARISH CLERK Angela Ashpole has decided to step down from her role as Clerk to the Parish Council in May, we are hugely grateful for her sound advice and assistance in making the Parish Council both accountable and approachable – we hope to be able to announce a new appointment in the very near future.

This has been a challenging and interesting year for the Parish Council and much has been achieved. This short report attempts to encapsulate the work of the Parish Council over the past year, to find out more about our work please come to the **Parish Meeting on 16th April**, or any of our Parish Council meetings. Your input is invaluable to us, your elected representatives.

In May 2019, we are due to have elections to the Parish Council and the village will be looking for new Councillors – if you would like to know more about our work do please give me a call.