

Twyford Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2019-2020

The past year has been a challenging one following the Parish Council's decision to take on a number of significant projects including the progression of The Neighbourhood Plan, repairs and the reinstatement of a flooding channel on The Meads and the adoption of the Two Park Strategy to improve the village's two play areas. In taking on these projects I would like to commend and thank the Parish Councillors and clerk for their positive and willing approach to be forward looking in their support of the village. I would particularly like to thank the Clerk, Jo Nicholson, for the enthusiastic manner she managed to get through the considerable amount of work she was confronted with during the year and to welcome Tracy Nutbeam who joined the Council as the Assistant Clerk in September.

Neighbourhood Plan

Progression on the Neighbourhood Plan was made after a quiet period where SDNP was involved in other matters. The Plan was ready for the pre-submission consultation process in January and took place on two days. Attendance was good on the two days followed by the submission of over 50 written responses. Inevitably there were comments and suggestions made by individuals and organisations to amend or improve the Plan but overall each were supportive in the whole. The Parish Council is currently studying the submissions and will respond to each one when completed.

While the pre-submission of the Plan was being prepared, The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has been in discussion with the agent of the landowner to Site 26 (adjacent to the surgery), the developer and Twyford School. Each is happy with how the Plan is moving forward.

Much time was given during the year towards addressing the drainage issues along Hazeley Road. Mayer Brown completed their study of the drains and produced a comprehensive drainage plan which was submitted to Hampshire County Council for discussion and comment. The drainage report identified that some significant repairs were required to the current drains near the surgery car park entrance. HCC and Southern Water will attend to these at their expense. A new ditch will be constructed to the east of the surgery car park from Bourne Lane to where the new development starts and then revert to pipe work linking with the current drains by the surgery entrance. This latter section is to be funded by the developer.

With regard to the former, the Parish Council has applied to SDNP for CIL money to assist funding the construction of the ditch. In respect to the car park, Winchester City Council has generously provided a grant of £65K.

The significant rainfall during February was carefully monitored and preparations for flooding were made. Fortunately no flooding occurred on Hazeley Road nor on Finches Lane although it was only by a narrow margin.

Planning

Planning applications during the course of the year within Twyford were mostly confined to extensions to properties. No advancement was noted on the development of a care home on the mill site in the Hazeley Enterprises Estate, nor for the development of a second access to Twyford School on Bourne Lane.

The South Downs National Park Plan was adopted during the year. Very few changes in planning matters were required as the Council has been working with the Park authorities for some time. However a number of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will require minor amendments to bring them into line the SDNP Plan.

The Eastleigh Development Plan and the extension of Southampton Airport were the two most important and controversial plans that faced the Council and the parish. With respect to the former, the threat of increased traffic passing through the village raised considerable concern. Full support was given to ADD and to Cllr Bronk to pursue and outline the Parish's numerous objections at the public hearing in November. The inspector's decision to reject Eastleigh's plans for the development of areas that affected Colden Common and Twyford, (areas B and C), were greeted warmly.

Southampton Airport embarked on a plan for expansion to attract a variety of short haul airlines with a proposal to extend the runway. The objective is to provide jet aircraft with the ability to depart with heavier fuel loads to extend their range and so offer more diverse destinations. The Parish Council raised a variety of issues about the airport's plans in their return of the consultancy papers including concerns about noise, pollution and traffic.

The Corona virus pandemic halted progress on the plan for the moment and the demise of Flybe will no doubt have an impact on the scheme's viability. However the Airport will almost certainly wish to proceed once normality resumes.

Recreational Facilities.

The prime role of the new assistant clerk, Tracy Nutbeam, was to work with the Recreation Committee managing operations at Hunter Park and Northfields Play Area.

The clerk, Jo Nicholson, initiated a survey among a variety of village groups and individuals to gather opinions on what improvements and facilities could be made to Hunter Park and the Northfields Play Area under what has been titled "The Two Park Strategy". The response was good and a variety of ideas were forthcoming. These included a hard surface area for ball games, nature and wild life areas, tree planting, an orchard, a toilet and an extension to the car park. Particular emphasis was given to making most of the improvements to be of a green or natural kind rather than concrete. To complete these projects is likely to take a few years and require careful financial planning. Currently £30K is available having been accumulated over the last three years for improvements in the two recreational areas. While some of the possible projects will cost very little to implement others of a more substantial kind will require grant funding or donations.

To deal with this logically, it was decided to seek a qualified landscape architect to draw up a master plan to establish a long term project for the Council to follow and assist in prioritising and funding

the improvements in an orderly manner. This will be completed during the 2020 year with hopefully some projects begun, perhaps even completed.

It was considered that the Northfields play area was in generally good condition although painting the equipment and some health and safety issues require to be done.

The Twyford cricket team completed another successful season with many complementary comments received about the state of the grounds. John Paine and Nick Ranger are to be congratulated for their enthusiastic and careful preparation of the cricket wicket and Green Smile for the high standard the park has been maintained.

A second defibulator was purchased to be installed on the cricket pavilion.

Traffic

Traffic remains one of the major issues in the village. Speed and limited parking spaces are the main concern.

The Parish Council has acquired a second SLR to attempt to reduce speed of vehicles passing through the village. Unfortunately it was not able to be put up before the pandemic lockdown began. However it is ready to be used with the current SLR once normality resumes.

Two of the Council's major traffic improvement aspirations, a reduction of speed from 50 to 40 mph on B3335 south of the village and traffic calming of a kind at Norris Bridge were both denied by HCC. A lack of accidents in both areas were cited as grounds for no action to be taken. A further request by a resident for a pedestrian crossing near Manor Farm Green was also denied.

A request to extend the length of the restricted time parking bay by Twyford Stores has been made and will be considered in the forthcoming year. Alterations to the length and location of the parking bays along Shawford Road have eased the flow of traffic and speed.

Cycle Path

An integral part of the Neighbourhood Plan is to ease traffic along B3335 with the inclusion of a cycle path from Colden Common to M3 junction. A grant of £50k has been provided by WCC to the surprise and delight of the Parish Council to go to this project. The Parish Council engaged Nick Farthing who has much experience in the field to prepare a brief on how this may be done.

Compton Lock and the Meadows

A major project funded by grants was undertaken to do some restoration work on the Meads. Under the guidance of Kathy Stearne, former channels were cleared, derelict culverts were built with handmade bricks and new bunny hatches were installed to control the flow of water. Once completed a ceremonial flooding of the reinstated meadows was carried out with great success watched by a number of interested residents.

A second significant project to be done was the rebuilding of the stairs into the Navigation Canal at Compton Lock. These had deteriorated and were considered unsafe.

Ash tree die back is evident in the water meadows and elsewhere in the village. It has been decided to have a tree survey done on the Parish Council properties for purposes of safety.

Finance

The Council's financial position at 31st March appears to be extremely strong with £142700 available. Of this £30000 is restricted for improvements to Hunter Park. This has been acquired over a three year period. The annual turnover has also been particularly high with significant grant money received for the work done on the water meadows.

The annual accounts are attached to the report for full study.

W D Lawton

Chairman

Financial Budget Comparison					
Comparison between 01/04/19 and 31/03/20 inclusive.					
					yr end balance
			Budget 2019/2020	Total	
				2019/2020	
	INCOME				
Finance					
	100	Precept	£99,559.90	£98,250.00	-£1,309.90
	105	VAT Refund	£0.00	£16,667.00	£16,667.00
	110	Bank Interest (current)	£0.00	£0.18	£0.18
	115	Bank Interest (savings)	£70.00	£300.17	£230.17
	120	CIL	£2,000.00	£0.00	-£2,000.00
Total Finance			£101,629.90	£115,217.35	£13,587.45
Parish Farm					
	400	Grants & Donations	£37,064.45	£45,868.41	£8,803.96
Total Parish Farm			£37,064.45	£45,868.41	£8,803.96
Neighbourhood Plan					
	300	NP Production	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	305	NP Project 1 - Flooding	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Neighbourhood Plan			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Recreation & Open Spaces					
	200	Pavilion Hire	£240.00	£334.00	£94.00
	205	Pitch Hire	£2,200.00	£3,349.00	£1,149.00
	210	Allotments	£675.00	£650.43	-£24.57
	215	Deposits	£100.00	£350.00	£250.00
	220	Grants & Donations	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
Total Recreation & Open Spaces			£3,215.00	£4,803.43	£1,588.43
Total Income			£141,909.35	£165,889.19	£23,979.84
		VAT on Sales	£6.00	£217.00	
		Total Cash received including VAT	£141,915.35	£166,106.19	
			2019/2020	Total Net Q1 to Q4	yr end balance
	EXPENDITURE				
	Finance				
	1000	Employment Costs	£15,235.54	£16,819.62	-£1,584.08
	1010	Expenses	£540.00	£823.94	-£283.94
	1020	Administration	£3,474.00	£3,588.94	-£114.94
	1030	External Advice	£500.00	£80.00	£420.00
	1040	Training	£500.00	£215.00	£285.00
	1050	Insurance	£2,372.00	£2,102.97	£269.03
	1060	Grants and Donations	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
	1070	Section 137	£4,000.00	£1,767.30	£2,232.70
	1080	Room Hire	£1,000.00	£690.00	£310.00
	1090	Legal Fees	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
	1100	Audit Fees	£925.00	£875.00	£50.00
	1110	Subscriptions	£500.00	£464.00	£36.00
	1120	Street Lighting	£3,000.00	£2,670.01	£329.99
	1130	SLR	£3,300.00	£3,808.36	-£508.36
	1140	PWLB interest - Gilbert Room	£1,688.25	£252.00	£1,436.25
	1141	PWLB capital - Gilbert Room	£0.00	£1,436.25	-£1,436.25
	1142	PWLB - interest Berry Meadow	£3,455.59	£67.92	£3,387.67
	1143	PWLB - capital Berry Meadow	£0.00	£1,666.67	-£1,666.67
	1150	VAT on payments	£0.00	£1,385.43	-£1,385.43
	1160	Street Furniture	£0.00	£167.28	-£167.28
Total Finance			£42,990.38	£38,880.69	£4,109.69

	Parish Farm				
	4000 PWLB - Water Meadow	£0.00	£1,721.00	-£1,721.00	
	4010 Water Meadow Maintenance	£3,783.00	£2,675.07	£1,107.93	
	4020 Water Meadow Project	£38,164.45	£37,629.78	£534.67	
	Total Parish Farm	£41,947.45	£42,025.85	-£78.40	
	Neighbourhood Plan				
	3000 NP Production	£13,250.00	£5,934.71	£7,315.29	
	3010 NP Projects	£16,000.00	£10,407.78	£5,592.22	
	Total Neighbourhood Plan	£29,250.00	£16,342.49	£12,907.51	
	Recreation & Open Spaces				
	2000 Employment Costs	£960.00	£1,078.36	-£118.36	
	2020 Hunter Park Grounds	£25,211.50	£24,021.52	£1,189.98	
	2030 Hunter Park Pavilion	£6,160.00	£4,470.29	£1,689.71	
	2040 Northfields	£3,035.00	£2,533.70	£501.30	
	2050 New Assets	£24,750.00	£4,021.69	£20,728.31	
	2060 Other Open Space	£9,464.00	£1,081.00	£8,383.00	
	2070 Allotments	£200.00	£671.98	-£471.98	
	2080 Deposits returned	£100.00	£250.00	-£150.00	
	Total Recreation & Open Spaces	£69,880.50	£38,128.54	£31,751.96	
		2019/2020	Total Net Q1 to Q4	yr end balance	
	Total Expenditure	£184,068.33	£135,377.57	£48,690.76	
	VAT paid on purchases		£18,663.92		
	Total cash expenditure including VAT		£154,041.49		
	Total Income	£141,909.35	£165,889.19	£23,979.84	
	Total Expenditure	£184,068.33	£135,377.57	£48,690.76	
	Total Net Balance	-£42,158.98	£30,511.62	£72,670.60	
	Total income including VAT		£166,106.19		
	Total expenditure including VAT		£154,041.49		
	Total Net Balance		£12,064.70		
	Cash in c/a at 31.03.2020		£35,321.41		
	Cash in savings account as at 31.03.2020		£107,405.16		
	Total Cash balance as at 31.03.2020		£142,726.57		