



OXTED PARISH COUNCIL

www.oxted-pc.org.uk

April 2017

A Message from the Chairman

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we at Oxted Parish Council published our last newsletter.

The Parish Council is made up of twelve Councillors (six from Oxted North and six from Oxted South), plus our excellent Parish Clerk, Mrs. Maureen Gibbins. Elections to the Parish Council are held every four years, with the role of Chairman changing every year in May at our Annual Council meeting. Oxted Parish Council meetings are held every two months, dates of which are shown on page 4. Members of the public are warmly welcome to attend these meetings, but it is helpful if prior notice is given to our Parish Clerk e-m: oxtedpc@btconnect.com or Phone 07510 226989.

Oxted Parish Council owns the Burial Ground in Oxted, which provides a beautiful, tranquil space where people can remember their loved ones. We are very fortunate with our contractors who keep the area in excellent condition.

Members of the public are welcome to place notices on any of our ten noticeboards (space permitting), but such notices are restricted to charitable organisations advertising fundraising local events. We are sorry, but commercial advertisements are not permitted and will be removed.

I am very proud to be Chairman of Oxted Parish Council and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Parish Assembly on Tuesday 23rd May at The York Rooms, St. John the Evangelist Church, Hurst Green; our guest speaker is David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, who I have had the pleasure of meeting on several occasions in my role as a Tandridge District Councillor.

I, along with another Councillor attended a Local Committee meeting of Surrey County Council, who have promised to investigate safety measures on Wolf's Hill. Residents will be all too aware of the dangers this road poses.

Oxted Parish Council are extremely pleased to have received some Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) which we have decided to use to provide a bus shelter on Holland Road, opposite Windmill Manor Care Home, and a footpath to the Outdoor Gym at King George V Playing Field in Mill Lane. Access to the gym can get very muddy in adverse weather, thus preventing safe use of the equipment.

Liz Parker - Chairman

Grant Aid

Oxted Parish Council considered in May 2016 all applications received in respect of Grant Aid. A total of eight applications were received from local organisations totalling a request for funding of £4,300.00. Oxted Parish Council awarded £4,000.00 in total, and these Grants were made to:

- **Mighty Oaks Youth Club £400**
- **Oxted Pre-School £500**
- **Bloomin Arts £200**
- **St. Mary's Oxted Parochial Church Council £500**
- **St. Catherine's Hospice £400**
- **Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield & District £600**
- **The Woodhouse Centre £1000**
- **Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau £400**

The closing date for applications in the current year is 1st May 2017

Karen Weightman

Check in on your Elderly Neighbours

May we remind you to consider any elderly neighbours you may have. Perhaps an offer to collect that prescription or do some shopping - or just to check in on them from time to time.

Pot Holes

Please report potholes to the Parish Clerk or Surrey County Council at www.surreycc.gov.uk



Finance Report

Once again we are pleased to report that Oxted Parish Council has one of the lowest parish rates of all parish councils in Tandridge. The cost to the band D tax payer in 2017/18 will be £10.11p.a.

The Parish had been struggling to do anything really worthwhile with the previous very low precept and the Parish Council decided to break from tradition and increased the precept from £28,000 to £50,000 with £20,000 being ring fenced for a

significant infrastructure project in excess of £10,000 preferably to leverage other sources of funding.

We are aware that Tandridge District Council and the Oxted Business Improvement District have some exciting plans for our Town centre and we look forward to working with them this year as they develop.

In spite of this low level of charge on the local taxpayer the Parish Council was able, and will continue

to do so, maintain its support to Master Park, and many other local organisations through Grant Aid, and maintain the Oxted Parish Burial Ground as a pleasant and peaceful environment.

As we have not yet reached the end of the current financial year, these accounts contain a forecast for the year to March 2017. The final accounts will be subject to audit in June.

Martin Fisher

PROFIT & LOSS

INCOME

Precept (charge on Council Tax)
Burial Ground
Community Infrastructure Levy
Interest

TOTAL

EXPENDITURE

Administration
Elections
Grant Aid
Master Park
Burial Ground
- Routine
- Non-essential
Notice Boards
Maintenance
Special Items

TOTAL

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

BALANCE SHEET (extract)

Cash - Current account
- Deposit account

Debtors (money due to us)
Creditors (money we owe)

TOTAL RESERVES

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16
Audited	Audited	Audited	Forecast
£		£	£
27,000	28,000	28,000	50,000
15,649	30,879	15,535	19,000
0	0	659	6,836
13	8	8	4
42,662	58,887	44,202	75,840
20,049	19,852	22,742	20,000
4,083	0	7,532	0
4,000	3,828	5,000	4,000
4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
12,651	13,030	11,343	11,000
12,879	3,413	3,173	6,000
705	0	0	0
852	60	990	1,840
1,320	2,402	0	0
60,539	46,585	54,780	46,840
(17,877)	12,302	(10,578)	29,000

4,260	13,226	1,724	30,092
16,238	16,246	16,254	16,258
20,498	29,472	17,978	46,350
5,021	3,767	3,496	4,099
-6,144	-1,562	-375	-350
19,375	31,677	21,099	50,099

Burial Ground

There have been two recent changes at the Burial Ground. Have you spotted them? One is more noticeable than the other.

The big change is the new fence around the burial ground. This replaced the old and past its sell-by date chestnut paling fence which we have been trying to patch for some years. The comments received so far have been very positive. Thank you.
If you have not seen it, do go and have a look and let us know what you think.

The less noticeable addition is the new bird boxes. These were designed and the kits prepared by the 'Men in Sheds' team at the Douglas Brunton Day Centre, Caterham. Many thanks. The kits went to the young people of Mighty Oaks Youth Club, Hurst Green, who put them together. Good job. A team of the Parish Councillors and a representative of Mighty Oaks attached the bird boxes to selected trees in the Burial Ground. How many bird Boxes can you spot? The boxes have begun to weather-in well. We will have to wait and see whether they attract any occupiers! Thank you to all involved with this great team effort.

I am sorry to say that some not so pretty parking on the access road to the Burial Ground occasionally gets us very near to having even more of a calamity on days when burials take place. I am pleased to say that when we put-out cones they are respected – thank you – and long may this long continue.

David Weightman



TandridgeTrust
Leisure & Culture

Alzheimer's Society
Leading the fight against dementia

Singing for the Brain® in Oxted

Why not join this fun and stimulating singing group?

Designed for people with dementia and their carers, you can be sure of a warm welcome and lots of laughter

Where: Oxted Community Hall, 53 Church Lane, Oxted, RH8 9NB

When: Every other Friday from 2pm to 3.30pm

**7 and 21 April
2, 16 and 30 June
11 August
6 October**

**5 and 19 May
14 and 28 July
8 and 22 September**

Cost: £3.50 per person per session.

For more information or to book a place please call 01932 855582 or mail surrey@alzheimers.org.uk

**We really look forward to seeing you!
alzheimers.org.uk**

PLANNING

The Planning Committee meets every three weeks to consider applications in our area and our comments are passed to the planning authority, Tandridge District Council. The number of applications received during the last year are in excess of 300. These vary from small to large extensions, cutting/re-shaping trees to new builds.

Members of the public are always welcome to come to our meetings. If you would like to speak please contact the Clerk before 17.00 the day before the meeting.

During the year we have been asked to comment on various aspects of the Local Plan which Tandridge District Council is in the process of making. The last review of this plan asked all interested parties to comment on parcels of land put forward by owners/developers involved with possible land for development. We were only asked to confirm whether or not we agreed with the assessments made by Tandridge District Council thus far. This enables Tandridge District Council to produce the next phase which will include land proposed for development in our area. This is when comments on the infrastructure to support such developments will be asked for.

Karen Weightman

Line your food waste bin with plastic bags

Residents can now line food waste caddies with plastic bags or liners, making it easier, cleaner and cheaper to recycle food waste. You can use anything from old shopping bags to bread or salad bags, but not black bin bags or plastic food packaging. Visit www.recycleforsurrey.org.uk for more information.

Committee agrees new approach to investment

TDC's Resources Committee agreed to a new approach to property investment with the setting up of a property investment fund of £50m, alongside a property investment company.

The fund will allow the Council to buy land or buildings up to a total capital value of £50m to generate a significant revenue stream, which will be reinvested to provide services and fund projects to regenerate and enhance the vitality of town centres, as well as fill the gap left by the reduction in government grant.

A property investment company needs to be set up to allow investment in properties outside the district. Until now, the Council's property investment strategy has focused on buying assets within the district up to a total capital value of £2m to generate rental income.

Councillor Simon Ainsworth, Chairman of the Resources Committee, said: "Reduced government funding means we need to be innovative in finding other ways to reduce costs and generate income. This new approach to investment is part of our long term financial planning to help the Council become financially self-sufficient, while maintaining and improving services. This includes a desire to continue providing some of the discretionary services, such as the well-being prescription, which we know residents value."



Paul Whitehurst



Karen Weightman



David Weightman



Claire Dillon



Elizabeth Parker



Stephen Blunden



Terry Dillon



Martin Fisher



Barbara Harling



Katherine Saunders



Beverley Connolly



Colin David

Annual Parish Assembly 2017

This year's Annual Parish Assembly is being held on Tuesday 23rd May at

The York Rooms, St John the Evangelist Church, Hurst Green

Starting at 7:30pm for 8pm. Guest Speaker

David Munro

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey Office

Will be happy to answer your questions.

Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

Oxted Parish Council Clerk

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