



OXTED PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

July 2020

CHAIR'S REPORT 2019-2020

It was my great honour to be elected as Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2019. The election result returned eight new councillors and four returnees. The first year with the new council team in place has passed very quickly indeed and has been a busy one.

In May, the Grant Aid working group also met, donating £5000 to 12 local charities. In July, it was my great pleasure to attend the installation and induction of our new Rector, Anna Eltringham, well known to those of us in Oxted South. I was also pleased to attend the grand opening of the new external door, funded by Council CIL funds, at Hurst Green Infants and Nursery School. Councillors were given a tour of the school, which was much appreciated.

At the September meeting, it was agreed that the Council would look once again at the concept of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. Discussions continued on the subject of the Master Park roundabout revamp. In November, we heard from County Councillor Cameron McIntosh, regarding the measures being taken to manage traffic in Oxted town centre, now that the Gasholder site housing development had begun. There was debate concerning meeting room venue, and an update on moving to online banking, where possible.

In the New Year, our January meeting concerned itself with a discussion on how best to “save our High Street”, following a report by a councillor. The 2020/21 budget and precept were agreed. Councillors agreed to part-fund a drainage improvement scheme on Station Approach.

The final meeting in March was attended by Crime Prevention Advisor Mark Howell, who came to talk about scams and fraud detection. There was further discussion of the proposed verge improvement scheme in Wolfs Wood.

Throughout the year, Planning and Burial Ground Committees have met regularly.

The Covid-19 pandemic which led to a national lockdown and a ban on public meetings has meant that meetings are now being held online, using Microsoft Teams, for the foreseeable future.

My grateful thanks to Liz Parker, Vice-Chair, and to our Clerk, Maureen Gibbins.

Katherine Saunders

Finance Report

The budget for the financial year April 2019 to March 2020 was set in December 2018 planning a deficit of (£5,990) for the year ended March 2020. I am pleased to report that at year end there was a surplus of £2,658. Income and expenditure by the Parish Council falls into three quite separate categories. General income and expenditure are separate from the income and expense of managing the Burial Ground. The third area is Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that is received from certain developments and the building of new homes. This year and for the next two years there will be significant CIL income from the construction of Courtyard Gardens by St William which replaces the gas holder. CIL income can only be spent on approved infrastructure projects, not on general expenditure. For this reason, it is appropriate to show CIL income and expenditure separately. Burial Ground income and expenditure is shown separately so that it is clear if managing the burial ground is supported by part of the precept or is a contributor to general expenses. In most years the burial ground would be expected to receive some funding from the precept. This is recognized by a lower level of charges to parishioners compared to non-parishioners. Use of the Burial Ground by parishioners and non-parishioners is difficult to predict. This year there has been more non parishioner income than expected. This has resulted in the Burial Ground contributing £3,991 to general proceeds. The budget was expecting general proceeds to contribute £4,000 to the Burial Ground. Maintenance of the Burial Grounds has benefitted from a three-year contract that ended this year. Despite competitive tendering for the new contract there has been a considerable increase of 61% in the cost for maintenance next year and future years.

Peter Giles

| P & L General Account Income | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Audited | Audited | Audited | Forecast | Budget |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Precept (charge on Council Tax) | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Burial Ground Surplus | | 181 | | 3,991 | 0 |
| Interest | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| Total Income | 50,008 | 50,189 | 50,008 | 53,999 | 50,010 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Administration | -19,245 | -24,151 | -28,843 | -27,812 | -27,000 |
| Elections | | | | -8,950 | -10,000 |
| Grant Aid | -4,000 | -6,000 | -5,000 | -5,000 | -5,000 |
| Grant Aid - Master Park | -4,000 | -4,000 | -4,000 | -4,000 | -4,000 |
| Notice Boards | -530 | -675 | | -330 | |
| Maintenance/Highways | -270 | -7,341 | -22,768 | -495 | -1,000 |
| Special Items | | | -4,512 | -4,755 | -5,000 |
| Burial Ground (Deficit) | -1,400 | | -4,428 | | -4,000 |
| Total Expenditure | -29,445 | -42,167 | -69,552 | -51,341 | -56,000 |
| General Surplus / (Deficit) | 20,563 | 8,022 | (19,543) | 2,658 | (5,990) |

**Burial Ground
Account**

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Income | 21,188 | 15,955 | 11,045 | 22,560 | 15,000 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| - Routine | -13,235 | -11,728 | -13,093 | -13,013 | -14,000 |
| - Exceptional | -9,353 | -4,046 | -2,380 | -5,556 | -5,000 |
| Total Expenditure | -22,588 | -15,774 | -15,473 | -18,569 | -19,000 |
| Burial Surplus / (Deficit) | (1,400) | 181 | (4,428) | 3,991 | (4,000) |

CIL Account

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| Income | 6,836 | 14,710 | 18,625 | 105,126 | 9,990 |
| Unspent CIL brought forward | 659 | 7,495 | 14,205 | 7,830 | |
| Expenditure | | -8,000 | -25,000 | -7,450 | -10,000 |
| Balance of CIL Account | 7,495 | 14,205 | 7,830 | 105,506 | -10 |

**BALANCE SHEET
(Extract)**

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Cash - current account | 28,010 | 42,430 | 13,092 | 118,238 |
| Cash - deposit account | 16,262 | 16,270 | 16,278 | 16,286 |
| | 44,272 | 58,700 | 29,370 | 134,524 |
| Debtors (VAT due to us) | 4,726 | 5,030 | 8,140 | 3636 |
| Creditors (money we owe) | -500 | -500 | -500 | -500 |
| RESERVES | 48,498 | 63,230 | 37,010 | 137,660 |

Do you enjoy walking?

Have a look at Walking in Surrey

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/surrey>

my website, which has hundreds of FREE walks to download and print plus details of all the walking clubs in the country and loads more information.



www.oxted-pc.org.uk

Burial Ground Report

If you follow the path of Court Farm Road to its north-west-corner you will find Oxted Parish Council's Burial Ground resplendent with its new sign to help visitors identify it from the neighbouring burial ground of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

Over the past year the Parish Council has worked hard to ensure the upkeep of the Burial Ground and has completed key projects such as the signage at the gates, the removal of tree roots and relaying of tarmac to ensure a safe and even access road and the installation of a pedestrian gate and associated footpath which will allow the closure of the main gates when required whilst keeping the Burial Ground accessible for visitors .

That said, there is still more to come with the installation of an access ramp from the car park to the grassed area and repair to the paving around the circular bench as the Parish Council looks forward to busy year.

Along with these key projects, the Parish Council are busy ensuring the continuous maintenance is of the standard the community demands. As such, this year, the Parish Council are happy to welcome Country Garden Services Ltd as the preferred maintenance supplier who, along with the regular working parties of Councillors and volunteers, keep the grounds attractive and welcoming.

Maintenance is only one part of Oxted Parish Council's Burial Ground operational routine. Throughout the year Councillors and Clerk are always looking at processes to ensure the service given and relationships with partners are continually improved while the Parish Council's Clerk is regularly engaged in form filling and records keeping.

The Parish Council's hope is that those who visit the Burial Ground find it a respectful and peaceful environment, in keeping with their wishes as a place of memorial and that visitors help us by keeping the surroundings tidy and informing the Clerk of any issues they find and providing comment and feedback.

Matt Sapsford

Planning Committee Report

It has been a busy year for the members of OPC planning committee, having commented on over 200 planning applications.

This year we have made a conscious effort to make our comments more meaningful and helpful by making the reason for our decision more transparent and less ambiguous.,

Although TDC are the ultimate planning authority our greatest value is to provide local input in order that TDC have a more rounded picture when making their decision.

All meetings along with planning applications are advertised on our website and FB. should you wish to come along to any of our meeting you would be made most welcome.

Denize Wallace



MASTER PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Review for the Year 2019

The land was given for the recreation of local Residents by Charles Hoskins Master in 1923.

It seems that most local residents do not realize that Master Park is a CHARITY and is NOT owned by the Council.

... so, if anyone has an inventive idea as to how else we can get the message out there.... please let us know!

Trustees: We had many new Trustees join our committee last year and this has led to harmonious and productive results.

For more information on who's who, please visit our website www.masterparkoxted.org

Sustaining the Park: We struggle to raise funds to keep the Park looking good – for example just the removal of waste plus the cutting of the grass is approx. £15,000 per year!!

Our main revenue streams are from the sports clubs, events on the park, donors, Friends of the Park and the invaluable help from Oxted Parish Council's grant aid towards our maintenance costs & TDC in cutting our grassbut all of this is not enough to do everything that needs doing in the Park.

New Pavilion: We are hoping to address our constant shortfall of funds with our Park Pavilion Project. The current building is unfit for purpose to meet the demands of both the community and sports clubs combined and so, with this in mind, we have designed a multi-use facility. We have also created a café within the new design, and this will be the main Hub of the Park and will be used by Pavilion users as well as the general public visiting the Park.

We have been granted full planning permission and now we are in the process of Fundraising. This is a daunting prospect, but we feel it will be well supported by the Local Community and hope to translate this goodwill into funds towards the project. We also plan to pitch for grants/donations to the Council, ECB, FA, Sport England, National Lottery and other large benevolent corporations.

The new building will have space for lettings, such as Yoga, Pilates, Bridge Art Classes, Book Clubs etc. and rooms for Meetings and Gatherings this is in addition to meeting the sporting requirements for the Football and Cricket Clubs.

We hope you enjoy Master Park and feel strongly that this gem of a green space, in the centre of Oxted, is something worth working hard for!

Pammy McNaughton
Chairman, Master Park

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Funding for Local Projects - The Parish Council has available an amount of funds raised from the Community Infrastructure Levy to be used to support local projects of community benefit. The types of projects that the Council will consider for support with CIL funds included developments or improvements to 'community infrastructure' in the form of social, community and cultural facilities, sport and recreation facilities, play spaces, parks and open spaces. Contact the Clerk at Oxted Parish Council for a proposal form on clerk@oxted-pc.org.uk

GRANT AID FUNDING - 2020

The Parish Council is delighted to have been able to provide grant aid funding to the following organisations:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| St Mary's Church | £ 400.00 |
| Citizens Advice Oxted & District | £ 750.00 |
| St Catherine's Hospice | £ 800.00 |
| Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield & District | £ 500.00 |
| Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance | £ 250.00 |
| The Woodhouse Centre | £1,100.00 |
| Tandridge Voluntary Action | £ 550.00 |
| Kings Church Oxted (£600, £100, £100, £100) | £ 900.00 |
| Creative Community | £ 750.00 |

Website: WWW.OXTED-PC.ORG.OK
Follow the Parish Council on Facebook
Email: clerk@oxted-pc.org.uk

Contact your County Councillor Cameron McIntosh -
cameron.mcintosh@surreycc.gov.uk

Contact your MP - Claire Coutinho - claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk

YOUR OXTED PARISH COUNCILLORS



Cllr Liz Parker



Cllr Deb Shiner



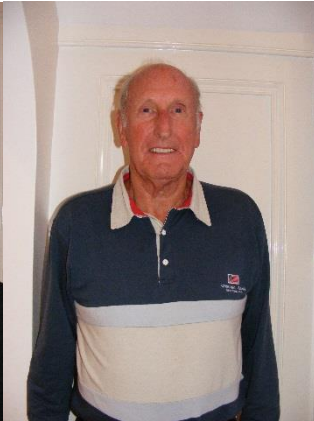
Cllr Matt Sapsford



Cllr Reg Hull



Cllr Barbara Harling



Cllr Paul Whitehurst



Cllr Katherine Saunders



Cllr Denize Wallace



Cllr Peter Damesick



Cllr Peter Giles



Cllr Anne Rivers



Cllr Alan Feesey

Email your Parish Councillor on cllr.firstname.surname@oxted-pc.org.uk

Your District Councillors

Oxted North

Cllr.catherine.sayer@tandridge.gov.uk

Cllr.david.stamp@tandridge.gov.uk

Cllr.jackie.wren@tandridge.gov.uk

Oxted South

cllr.elizabeth.parker@tandridge.gov.uk

cllr.chris.langton@tandridge.gov.uk

cllr.lynn.mills@tandridge.gov.uk

The Oxted Rotary Charitable Trust is now offering help to families living with a disability

It's a year since we launched our Grant Scheme to help single parent families and a lot has happened since then. We've received applications and awarded funds toward a varied selection of projects that the families we've helped would not otherwise have been able to afford.

For instance, we provided one mother with a dehumidifier to help dry out the dampness in her baby's bedroom and another with a short break at the seaside with her two children, one of whom had never had a holiday. School uniform was featured in one applicant's request for her teenage daughter and funds for the son of another mum to enable him to attend a summer Scout camp.

These and more have given our club the chance to bring a little bit of happiness to many families in need around Oxted and, judging by the generous donations that we have received, it seems as if our efforts have met with your approval.

We received donations from the grown-up daughter of a single parent, a gentleman who wanted to help local families and one via our Facebook page. As a result, we now use a Donate facility on our Facebook page and by using Facebook's payment platform to process your donation, we pay no fee, so you can be sure that 100% of your donation goes straight into our charity fund for the benefit of local families.

Sadly, we are now faced with arguably the most extreme circumstances since WWII and, because of social distancing rules, we can no longer be as active as we were. People have been affected in different ways, so we modified our Grant Scheme to specifically help those single parent families directly affected by the epidemic and called it CoronaCare in the Community.

That scheme has been running for some weeks but there are several other local agencies offering similar help, so we have now decided to extend our scheme even further and target another social group, namely those families living with a disability.

This scheme is being launched as you read this article and any family on a low income and living with some kind of registered disability or chronic illness can apply, just so long as they meet the criteria. Applications must be for the benefit of the family as a whole and the applicant's family must live in areas where the Rotary Club of Oxted & Limpsfield operates.

Locality has been a problem because we have received several applications from families living outside of our area of operation, although still within Tandridge, and we have had to turn them down. This does not sit well with us, so we have teamed up with several other local agencies and are now able to refer such cases on. This means that even if you are not successful with an Oxted Rotary Grant, you may still be eligible to receive help from another source.

So, if you are a single parent, struggling to bring up your family in these hard times, or a family affected by a disability, you can apply for a grant now by contacting our grants administrator on grants@oxtedrotary.org.uk and requesting an application form.

Oxted United Charities 2019/2020

Registered No: 200056

The Charity provides help to the poor, sick and elderly in the Ancient Parish of Oxted, that is Oxted and Hurst Green. Our main source of income is the Henry Smith Charity, although small amounts are received from a few other charities.

Throughout the past year we have continued to assist the poor, sick and elderly in the Parish by making grants of cash and issuing vouchers for goods.

We commenced the year with a cash balance of £6760.99. As at the Financial End of Year (29th February 2020) we received income of £5508.80, and made payments of £5639.93, and there was therefore a cash balance of £6614.86 as at that date. We issued 55 Christmas Vouchers to people in Oxted and Hurst Green, and helped 11 families in need. During the year we have continued to work with other local charities to better assist individuals and families in the area. Our thanks go to these organizations for their help.

Mrs Sheila Steele was appointed as a Nominative Trustee in May 2019 (replacing Mrs Joan Brackpool). Mrs. Gill Fairs resigned as a Trustee in May 2019, and the Trustees wish to thank Gill for all her hard work as a Trustee. Mrs Tricia Whyte was co-opted as a Trustee in November 2019 to replace Mrs Fairs. Both the new Trustees were warmly welcomed.

The Chairman and the Clerk would like to thank their fellow Trustees for all their hard work during the year. Additionally, we thank the retail outlets in Oxted and Hurst Green for their courtesy in accepting our vouchers and dealing with them so efficiently. Donations and bequests to the Charity are always gratefully received.

Trustees: The Rev'd Prof Mary Seller – Chair (715675)

Mrs Margaret Bamford (714852)

Mrs Barbara Harling (723034)

Mrs Sheila Steele (712527)

Mrs Tricia Whyte (370204)

Mr Chris Berry - Clerk (818549)

Contact Oxted Parish Council via phone on 07510 226989 or email at clerk@oxted-pc.org.uk

All meeting dates are on the Parish website although are, currently, being held virtually via Teams.

Keep in touch via the Parish Facebook page or via the website on www.oxted-pc.org.uk