

Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council

Annual Report 2015-2016



Clerk: Carol Jones
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Chairman: Peter Yoxall
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I start off by thanking my fellow parish councillors for having re-elected me as Chairman in May 2015. My term of office comes to an end on 4 May 2016 and I offer good wishes to my successor.

I also take this opportunity to thank Gillian McIntyre who has been of great support to me during the year as Vice-Chairman.

NEW CLERK

We were sorry to lose Chris Moulton as Clerk in September 2015. He was promoted to Town Clerk at another authority and was, therefore, unable to continue in his role. Carol Jones took over as Clerk on 1 September 2015.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council manages the allotments site on Gresty Lane.

These are operated on a break-even basis in that each allotment-holder pays a fee for their plot, but the Council's maintenance of the site as a whole approximates to the rent received.

There is a place on the Council's Environment Committee for an allotment holder to represent the interests of all plot-holders. The Committee meets approximately four times a year and any of the plot-holders are able to apply. Please contact the Clerk.

BEST KEPT GARDENS COMPETITION

The Parish Council has decided that the Best Kept Gardens competition should be changed from annual to biennial; so, for 2016 there will be no competition, but in its place, we are going to offer a prize for the best-dressed house at Christmas.

The details have yet to be decided, but we will announce these in the Village Voice later in the year.

COMMUNICATIONS

This report is but one means of communicating with residents. We communicate via notice-boards, the website, Village Voice, and at Parish Council meetings.

We encourage residents to attend our meetings, either to observe for the whole of the meeting, or to raise a

question, or address the Parish Council during the Public Question Time slot.

We are now committed, during 2016-2017 to introducing a new Communications Policy which will enhance our current method of communicating with residents to embrace social media which has grown in recent years and is often the main communication tool used by residents of all ages, but particularly younger people.

Website

The website contains agendas, financial and other reports, newsletters, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme etc.

We welcome feedback and if you feel that the website is not providing the type of information you require, please get in touch.

ELECTIONS – 7 MAY 2015

All 12 seats were filled at the elections on 7 May 2015. Since then, one councillor has resigned (Bob Melling) and at the time of publication of this report, we are hoping to co-opt to the vacancy at the Annual Meeting to be held on 4 May.

The co-optee will represent the Village Ward of the parish.

FINANCE (see page 4)

GRANTS

The Council operates a grants scheme. Generally, grants can be made to help local voluntary and community groups. A total of £1,000 has been allocated for the forward year.

Application forms can be requested from the Clerk, or downloaded from the Parish Council's website.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Our partnership with the Cheshire East Borough Councillors continues with Councillor Steven Edgar attending each Parish Council meeting and challenging on our behalf, where appropriate, planning applications for large-scale development.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Late last year, the Council agreed that it will embark on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. We have now set up a Steering Group which has commenced

work on the project. The Steering Group will report progress to the monthly Parish Council meetings.

We had a very successful first meeting of the Steering Group on 16 March 2016 when, in addition to four parish councillors, eight residents were co-opted.

Bill Atteridge, a frequent attendee at Parish Council meetings, was elected Chairman, with Councillor Benjamin Gibbs being elected Vice-Chairman.

In addition, there are a number of residents who have expressed interest in helping 'behind the scenes' with particular aspects of the Plan according to their experience and expertise.

This will be an important project for us over the next two years and we will aim to engage all of our community in its preparation. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Clerk.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is drawn up by the community (in this case led by the Parish Council) and sets out a shared vision to shape the future growth and development of the local area. It is part of the statutory development plan (Local Plan) and must be used by Cheshire East Council when determining planning applications.

The Plan cannot be used to stop development, but it can be used to allow people a say in where they would prefer to see development.

MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We welcome members of the public to our meetings and particularly to the Annual Parish Meeting which is for local residents (who are registered electors) to discuss parish affairs. Resolutions may be passed at this meeting and the Parish Council is obliged to consider these at its next meeting but not, necessarily, to accept the proposals.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, commencing at 7.15 pm. Residents are always welcome.

At its annual meeting to be held on 4 May 2016, the Council will be asked to approve a calendar of meetings for what is known as the 'municipal year' (i.e. from May 2016 to April 2017 inclusive). Proposed dates are as follows:

1 June	7 December
6 July	4 January 2017
3 August	1 February
7 September	1 March
5 October	5 April
2 November	3 May (Annual meetings)

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has several notice-boards (1) outside the Village Hall; (2) outside the Co-op Store; (3) Dodds Bank, adjacent to NISA; (4) outside the Cheshire Cheese Public House; and (5) Fuller Drive (adjacent to the New Life Church).

Agendas are placed on the notice-boards at least three clear days before each meeting. These are also uploaded onto the website which is www.scgpc.org.uk

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of any information, please contact the Clerk.

PLANNING

One of the main consultative roles of parish councils, and of great importance, is to comment on local planning applications which may have a positive or detrimental impact on the community.

The broad aim of the Parish Council, in terms of planning is to keep the area a pleasant place to live, avoiding inappropriate development. We have seen many large-scale developments in the last few years and we hope that the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan will enable us to influence how decisions are taken in future by Cheshire East Council as the local planning authority.

POLICE

Although crime is relatively low in the parish, the Parish Council makes a financial contribution to the cost of two PCSOs who spend time in the parish. The contract is due for renewal after the elections on 5 May 2016.

If you see something out of place, you can either telephone the emergency line (999) if it is a genuine emergency, or telephone 101.

VILLAGE HALL

The Council's thanks go to Councillors Vivien Adams and Bill McIntyre who, through their unstinting efforts and availability at all times, ensure that the village hall continues to be a success.

It is well-used by all sectors of the community and operates at a very competitive rate of £9.50 per hour. Visit the website for more information.

If you wish to make a booking you can e-mail shavhall@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 650469.

FINANCE

At its meeting held on 5 January 2016, the Parish Council agreed its budget for the new financial year commencing 1 April 2016. This required a precept from Cheshire East Council (CEC) of £85,000. This is higher than last year (£50,000) and represents £50.73 per Band D property.

The Parish Council agrees that this is necessary to maintain the current services and will also enable vital work to be carried out at the village hall (toilets to be upgraded for disability access, replacement of the suspended ceiling and internal re-decoration).

The following are the key areas of spend for 2016-2017, but the detailed budget is available as an appendix to the Council's minutes of 6 January 2016 available on the website.

Item	£
Clerk's gross salary	12,887
NI contributions/payroll service	800
Administration	1,100
Amenities	650
Best Kept Gardens competition	400
Insurance/Audit	4,700
Grants	1,000
Grounds maintenance	10,600
Members' expenses	700
Miscellaneous	1,125
Police Community Support Officers (two)	15,750
Planning	
Development of Neighbourhood Plan	10,000
Planning consultant	1,000
Village Hall – disabled toilets project	30,000
Village Hall – interior maintenance	5,000
Village Hall – cleaning	4,000
Village Hall – window cleaning	600
Village Hall – sundry supplies	450
Village Hall – gas and electric	3,700
Village Hall – United Utilities	3,400
Village Hall – Industrial waste collection	1,100
Website re-branding	4,000
Website support and hosting	700
Speed Watch scheme (purchase of vehicle-speed display unit)	3,000
Unallocated reserves	10,000
TOTAL	126,662

These are your Parish Councillors

All phone numbers prefixed by 01270 unless otherwise indicated

Peter Yoxall (Chairman)	664497
Gillian McIntyre (Vice-Chairman)	650469
Vivien Adams	568228
Eddie Ankers	662146
Sheila Cheshire	568780
Bill Cooper	664247
Benjamin Gibbs	07845 290 192
Kevin Gibbs	666786
Rene Hancock	661592
William McIntyre	650469
Anne Yoxall	664497

Your Ward Councillors

Councillor Steven Edgar (Shavington)
Tel: 07974 467 969
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Councillor Dorothy Flude (Crewe South)
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Councillor Steve Hogben (Crewe South)
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