

Coates Parish Council

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23 April 2019

FINANCIAL POSITION

We end the year in a healthy position, we have set a 2019 budget that allows the Parish Council to invest in improvements to the village and the Village Hall.

We made provisions for a level of increased expenditure during this new financial year which meant we needed to increase the Parish Council's precept request to CDC.

COUNCIL ASSETS

Improvements have been made to the Playground equipment on Coates Lane.

After a short tendering process, we selected a new grass mowing company. After a later than normal start all green areas and verges have successfully been mown during the 2018 growing season.

We had to replace the old Parish Council notice board. We purchased a new notice board, which is made of recycled household refuse and provides accessibility to all residents current and future. The notice board is an important part of the Parish Council's transparency obligations. The Parish Council has decided to keep the notice board locked ensuring that it contains important Council and community information in the space available.

We are in the second year since our Village Clock was restored and it continues to tick (with some loving encouragement from the Chairman); with the only occasional lapse in service when the batteries needed replacing and we moved between GMT and BST.

YOUR COUNCIL

One of our councilors will not be standing for re-election on 2nd May 2019; Phil Griffiths. The Parish Council wishes to express its gratitude, on behalf of the Village, for his excellent service as a councillor. In particular we would not have an excellent well-maintained Parish Council website without Phil.

We welcomed Libby Harrison and Gilly Torry-Harris as new Councilors – and we wish them both every success in their new position.

Sport in the Village - Rounders – Councilor Libby Harrison and Mr Rob Hardwicke established a weekly rounders event last summer which culminated in a rounders competition. The event was very well attended and we hope to run a similar event during summer 2019.

In 2018 we started a process of engagement of residents to seek their input as part of a consultation exercise to determine the future of our community. We have been looking at options for different requirements eg a recreation/sports ground for the village. The Parish Council will be holding another event to update residents on progress and to consider options we have identified.

A Speed Watch event was held in the Village over two days in June 2018; we hope to run some more events over the next 12 months.

Highways have installed some 'Horse Warning' signs in the village which we are grateful for.

Some works have started at the Coates Lane entrance to the village to reduce flooding of the road in the area.

Geoff Moore kindly organised the annual Litter pick; for which we owe him great thanks. There was an excellent turnout of volunteers; thank you to everyone involved. The next one is on 27th April 2019.

Coates Village Club refurbished the bar area, at the Village Hall, with funds from the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and their own funds. We now have a modern, light and relaxing environment to enjoy with our friends; well done to all those involved.

Residents of May Tree Close have done an excellent job tidying up the borders around the entrance to the Close.

FUTURE AMBITION

The Council and many villagers would like to continue improvements to Road Safety in the village and surrounding areas and we will be continuing to focus on this throughout the year.

Dog fouling is again becoming an issue in the Village and we again request dog owners to pick up their dog's mess and take it home to be disposed of.

We are looking at options to establish 'Wild Meadows' on some verges around the village.

On behalf of your Parish Council

Richard Harrison, Chairman Coates Parish Council