

Over winter we have been perhaps one of the lucky villages not to experience much damage due to the floods, we have seen river bank erosion that is in the process of being looked at and rectified, before the damage gets much worse.

The village continues to be targeted with large planning applications and we continue to work with relevant authorities to try and get the best options for the village. Work has started on the old Pickerings site, which will hopefully improve the appearance. The Parish Council has managed the budget to keep precept increases as low as possible in line the standard rate of inflation and the amount of services other higher authorities are unable to continue.

Which leaves me only to wish you all well and once again thank you for your continued support and as we approach the summer we look forward to the Catterall Gala and a long hot Summer!!?

Thank you, Ian Brayshaw

The report was accepted by members.

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Catterall Parish Council began the financial year at £46,000 and with much forward planning to providing improvements in the parish have completed the term with £55,522 to aid this realisation. The Council also noted that the Government has not imposed a cap on Parish Councils, but this has been weighed against huge cuts in other local authorities and the expectation that Parish Councils will be expected to carry out more responsibilities.

Income

The Parish Council income has increased by £1,000 this year with most items only reflecting a small rise. We have been the recipient of a number of grants to assist with improvements in the Village including £800 to provide a stone bench on Stone Cross Garden. This completes the partnership with Catterall in Bloom work to make this roadside verge a destination to visit and enjoy the produce. A start up grant given to Catterall Community Café was returned as the enterprise did not get started, much to the disappointment of the Councillors. However, the Parish Council did negotiate with the developers of Wyre Way for a community donation, which was passed to Catterall Village Hall for their recent improvements.

By far the largest single income has been the Parish Council administrating the accounts of Catterall in Bloom, with an initial year's income of almost £5,000, raised through sponsorship and the tireless efforts of the Committee, but mostly of their leading light Mrs. Netta Parker. The impact of the floral displays in Catterall won them a silver award in North West in Bloom and the Parish Council wishes them every success in this year's competition.

The Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field football pitch has been used by the Brockholes Arms team and Garstang Methodist Team, although bad Winter weather cancelled some games and reduced the income. The Grounds Maintenance Contract with Kirkland Parish Council has been confirmed for another year with a slight increase.

Expenditure

Staff costs are very slightly up on last year, but work in the parish has increased and the Council calls on Pilling Parish Council to assist Tim in bigger jobs as necessary.

The relocation of the Christmas Tree to the Memorial Garden and the installation of electrics were expensive, and took months to complete due to personal difficulties faced by the installation firm.

The Parish Council now has a new interactive website the installation costs were partly paid through a Parish Champion grant, but the monthly fees have increased administration costs.

Our Catterall Crier was produced more frequently and due to co-option new Parish Councillors have attended training courses to familiarise themselves with the working of Councils increasing costs. The costs of the CCTV and Smiley SID have greatly reduced following the extensive work carried out last year.

Although it appears donations have increased, one was returned and one passed through the Parish Council to another benefactor. This year has seen the purchase of land at Keepers Wood Way, which is to be maintained as a recreational area and the public footpath between the sites provides an accessible to the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field.

Next year's budget will see the purchase of two new benches in the parish, improvement work on Keepers Wood Way, replacement litter bin for the Memorial Garden and to work with both the Gala and Village Hall Committees to generate funds for resurfacing the car park at Catterall Village Hall.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council has a design plan for improvements to the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, based on a number of public consultations and is applying for grants to see the plans implemented together with Parish Council funds and section 106 monies.

The report was accepted by members.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Report from Catterall Village Hall

The Committee have undertaken improvements to the kitchen, toilet facilities and a new cloakroom. Plus replacement of the windows and frames with UPVC models and solar panels has been installed on the South facing roof.

Report of Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils Representative

Cllr D. Sharples reported that the committee are trying to refocus the meetings to entice Parish Council representatives back. Invitations have been sent to all Parish Councils and the meeting night has been set as the second Wednesday of the month.

Report of the representative of the Wyre Area Road Safety Committee

The Committee is in abeyance as Lancashire County Council officers were unable to attend any meetings, therefore making the committee redundant.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by residents.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40p.m.

Date

Chairman