

But on the plus side we have dug out the sluice gate which has turned out to be more in tack than anyone could hope it to be, I'm sure if we dug further we would be able to trace more of its history and use. I would encourage everyone to go and look at it. I would like to thank Graham from Pilling Parish Council for helping Tim out with the works.

Another good note we have confirmed we are to receive funding from the new houses at Bowgreave, which we intend to spend on play improvements, suggestions of which are to be discussed in our monthly meeting.

Coming up this year, we are not many weeks away from the procession season and I look forward to having an enjoyable Catterall Gala with some good weather.

Hope fully we should see the much anticipated reopening of the waste recycling centre at Claughton, which I'm sure will prove to be a much used facility as it was before.

Once again thanks you all very much for your support and I look forward to being able to support you and the Parish for the coming year.

The report was accepted by members.

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Catterall Parish Council began the year with £31,000, £17,000 being ear marked for the drainage of the playing field. The year end accounts show a good balance of £40,000, as Councillors planned to safeguard against the Government imposing capping of Parish Councils in the future.

Income

It was the future withdrawal of the Rural Grant and the perceived threat of capping which forced an increase in the precept to maintain standards that the Parish Council provides in the Parish in the longer term.

The Parish Council has been the recipient of a number of grants this year to assist with improvements in the Village. These include £3,000 from Fields in Trust towards the drainage of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field, Catterall Village Hall gave £230 towards the new Christmas Tree lights, £300 from The Green Partnership Award towards the renovation of the Calico Mill Sluice and the Police gave £1,420 towards the relocation of the CCTV from the Pickerings Hotel, now that it may be demolished, to the Memorial Garden.

It should be noted that Catterall Parish Council submitted a request from CRAG for monies towards the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park and this passed through the accounts.

The Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field football pitch was increased and repositioned and is now a professional regulation size at the request of the Brockholes Arms team, who played the one game during the Catforth and District Summer League, the payment for which only arrived when permission was sought for this year's matches. However, the pitch has been well used by Garstang Juniors, during renovations at their grounds and continues to be used by Garstang Free Methodists, who reformed their team to play over winter adding to an increase in income.

Lancashire County Council amenity grass cutting was cut again, but the Parish Lengthsman has carried out work, which generated a welcome income. The

increased VAT refund reflects the increased claim against the work carried out to drain the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. The Grounds Maintenance Contract with Kirkland Parish Council has been confirmed for another year and includes the public areas in Churchtown and the Parish.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council has just received confirmation from Wyre Council of Section 106 monies from the affordable houses on Bowgreave, £26,798 is to be spent to 'improve public open space at Catterall Playing Field'

Expenditure

Staff costs are marginally up on last year due to additional work taken on by the Parish Council. The parish maintenance and equipment costs have increased slightly through damage and machine repairs, no new pieces of equipment have been purchased.

The largest outlay this year has been the successful draining of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field at a cost of nearly £18,000 with the snagging jobs Tim completed. This had been a planned improvement and was financed by building up reserves each year since 2010 accumulating in £13,000.

The increased Christmas tree costs reflect the purchasing of new lights and electrical installation of both Catterall and Churchtown trees, which was claimed back from Kirkland Parish Council.

The costs of administrating the Parish Office are off set through the partnership agreement with Kirkland and Pilling Parish Councils who both pay into these costs. The energy costs for the Parish Office continue to be paid annually.

The grounds maintenance of Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field continues with R. R. Kippax and Olive Branch Landscapes, whose standards have been improved with more thorough weed killing and improvements to the nutrients in the soil and the mole man regularly visits as we did have an increasing problem last year that is now under control.

There have been no section 137 payments made, but donations have been given to Bowland Mountain Rescue, the Royal British Legion and St. Helens Church for the upkeep of the graveyard.

Funds for the relocation of the CCTV from the Pickerings Hotel are on hold until the pole is relocated and as it has not been functional these costs have decreased. Due to the new Audit bandings the cost of last year's audit decreased, but with the increase in this year's income we will be in the next band for the present year.

Councillors will be discussing best value for the section 106 monies with appropriate equipment in the near future.

The report was accepted by members.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Report from Catterall Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Bugeja reported that the committee are to purchase new children's sized tables and chairs for use at parties and at Catterall Gala.

Report of Catterall and Kirkland Memorial Hall

Cllr. D. Harvey reported that the biggest expense last year was the removal of one of the trees on the Avenue, but that business was ticking over.

Report of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils Representative

Cllr. D. Sharples reported that the meetings continue to liaise with the Police, Lancashire County Council and Wyre Council. Sim Lane-Dixon is, with further information through the Wyre Area Road Safety Committee, delivering highway schemes to the area. The Police take on board the comments made and there is good co-operation between them and the Parish Council attending. Attendance has been thin on the ground with many attendees being clerks rather than Councillors.

Philippa Davis, Wyre Council, is reviewing Wyre’s Parish Charter following mumbles about lack of co-operation with Parish Councils and a draft will be sent out for consultation in due time. Parish Council still have a long way to go at getting Wyre to listen to them especially with planning.

Report of the representative of the Wyre Area Road Safety Committee

Cllr. Brayshaw reported on the regular meetings attended by various Lancashire County Council highway personnel. Issues are getting done albeit slowly on some occasions.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by residents.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45p.m.

Date

Chairman