

As for other Planning applications, the area, along with other neighbouring Parishes seem to be taking the brunt of the large scale applications, which currently seem to be put on hold until 'County' can sort out the traffic issues. I'd like to hope that some joined up common sense approach will prevail in these matters, but seeing how individual planning applications are being dealt with we will have to wait and see.

The precept has been set and we have kept the increase in line with the standard rate of inflation. We still have the monies from the recent house build in Bowgreave, which we are hoping to use for some more up to date play equipment on the Queen Elizabeth II playing field, something similar to the one on Kepple Lane, which will be a welcome boost to the children's' play area which perhaps is now looking a little tired compared to some other play areas.

The opening of the much anticipated waste recycling at Cloughton is getting nearer and we hope that it will be a breath of fresh air for those residents who find it difficult to get to either Preston or Lancaster.

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 the forthcoming children's festivals?

The report was accepted by members.

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Catterall Parish Council began this financial year with £41,000, the year end accounts show a healthy balance of £46,000, as Councillors safeguarded against the Government's imposition of capping.

Income

This is the first year without the Rural Grant from Wyre Council and in order to 'soften the blow' the precept was increased over the past two years to absorb the effect and maintain service levels in Catterall.

The bank interest of £108.00 reflects two years as this had not been paid in time for the end of the last financial year. The Parish Council has been the recipient of a number of grants to assist with improvements in the Village. These include £4,900 towards the provision of the safety railings and an information plaque for the Sluice, with other grants towards the Memorial Gate, Stone Cross Garden improvements and a new web site. The CCTV was struck by lightning and destroyed, but an insurance claim covered the cost of its replacement.

The Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field football pitch has been used by the Brockholes Arms team and Garstang Methodist Team. The payment by Lancashire County Council for amenity grass cutting was again reduced. 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 is carrying out public consultation on how the Section 106 money from the affordable houses on Bowgreave, £26,798, is to be spent to 'improve public open space at Catterall Playing Field'. The Parish Council is also looking to work in partnership with Bloom In Catterall is developing a Memorial Garden along side the Memorial Gate and to extending Stone Cross Garden into a community open space with vegetables and floral displays.

Expenditure

Staff costs are up on last year due to the reconfiguration of pension payments, salary increase and additional work undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman. Both the parish maintenance and equipment costs have slightly decreased and a replacement strimmer has been purchased. The Speed Indicator Device, Smiley Sid, has been repaired and updated for economy in usage.

The relocation of the CCTV pole and camera at the top of Cock Robin Lane and the new CCTV camera for the Village Hall site are a major investment and continue to promote security in the village. Catterall Parish Council has undertaken the instillation of a Memorial Gate and ceramic plaque to mark to outbreak of WWI and safety railings around the newly renovated Calico Mill Sluice. The grounds maintenance of Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field continues with Dave Kippax and Olive Branch Landscapes, whose standards continue to improve with thorough weed killing and improvements to the nutrients in the soil and the mole man regularly visits.

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. Insurance costs were negotiated to a lower level and subscriptions were less. The Catterall Crier continues to inform residents on the work of the Parish Council and asks for their input and opinion on community matters.

There have been no section 137 payments made, but donations have been made towards the work of the Royal British Legion, St. Helens Church, Bloom in Catterall and Wyre Area Road Safety Committee. A community donation was made to assist a resident volunteering in South Africa.

The report was accepted by members.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Report from Catterall Village Hall

The Committee is looking to extend the kitchen and introduce heating into the toilets.

Report of the Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Representative

Cllr D. Sharples reported on the quarterly meeting where members are challenging Wyre Council on the Parish Charter. Lancashire County Council will no longer be attending meetings, but this is to be investigated with Lancashire Association of Local Councils and raised through the Three Tier Forum.

Report of the representative of the Wyre Area Road Safety Committee

Despite having cleared many of the outstanding problems raised by Councillors in the past, Lancashire County Council has decided that there will be for further representation at forthcoming meetings, making more work for the secretary with no feedback.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by residents.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50p.m.

Date

Chairman