

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

## Parish Council Annual Report 2010

This is the formal Annual Report of the Council's activities up to the Annual Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

### **The Chairman's report on the Council's activities**

*The last 12 months have been another busy year for the Parish Council. There have been 11 formal Council meetings since the last Annual Parish Assembly and one extra-ordinary Parish Assembly to consider the third former airfield planning application.*

*The Parish Council considered 11 planning and licensing applications this year – a slight decrease on 2009. Each of these applications can involve several hours of work by the Clerk, checking the details, consulting with neighbours and researching planning policy, before writing our draft response for consideration by the Council. As a Quality Parish Council, our views are always well regarded because of this attention to detail.*

*Two applications have been decided differently by the District [5 Pokas Cottages and 1 Pretoria Cottages] and two are yet to be decided [both relating to developments on the former airfield].*

*The hard winter has played havoc with the roads and footways in the Village and the Parish Council has been closely involved in resolving all the issues:*

- *The bench in Caldecott which was destroyed by a motorist in the previous year's icy weather was replaced by a hand crafted bench built and donated by Cllr Wooding.*
- *The street lamp outside Acorn Cottage (Water Lane) was damaged by a delivery driver – we have successfully claimed against their insurance for a replacement.*
- *The intermittent street lamp opposite Gardenfields (Raunds Rd) has been replaced with a new 35w SOX lamp unit and then had to be repaired again following damage from an air rifle.*

*Northants County Council (NCC) has employed new contractors to work on Street Doctor problems (MGWSP). We have managed to develop an excellent working relationship with them and they have at last dealt with the problems raised. Many of our issues are now being addressed within 48 hours of being reported:*

- *They have replaced the surface of a couple of footways (19/21 Water Lane, by the memorial, Middle Farm house) and sided out the footway between the Village Hall and the postbox in Caldecott.*
- *A spring hole on the Green has also been filled, together with the numerous potholes on the Raunds Road, Sawyers Crescent and Water Lane. The Raunds Road surface is still unacceptable and awaits resurfacing or dressing in the next budget round.*
- *The long standing problems with flooding near Disbrowe Court appear to have been solved by the installation of a*

*new drain pipe and the B645 flooding near Bidwell Lane has (hopefully) ceased to become a lake after heavy rain, with the collapsed clay drain being replaced with a new plastic one.*

- *The drain outside the pub has been unblocked and the large holes in that road have been filled now that the contractors accept that this is a public highway.*

*We continue to have problems with fly tipping in the Parish, but East Northants Council (ENC) are responding very quickly and clearing most items within 48 hours of report. The verges on the outskirts of the village have also received the attention of the Cory litter pickers for the first time in years.*

*Special thanks must again go to John Britten for his sterling efforts and for continuing with litter picking on a regular basis.*

*The Parish Council has a duty to provide allotments if sufficient residents request it. The necessary requests were made at the Annual Parish Assembly in 2008. After failing to secure the first site behind the pub we reached agreement with the landowner to lease land behind Disbrowe Court for use as allotments. All sixteen plots have been taken up by residents in the village. The site has been fenced with the help of a grant from NCC Cllr Lawson. We are currently awaiting a decision from the National Lottery for funding to pay for sheds and a water supply. An official opening event will take place later in the year once the planting is established.*

*The Council has held informal meetings with new owners (William Pears Group) of the former USAF Housing Annex who will shortly be letting the properties to their first tenants. The Council is considering the adoption of the street lights and play equipment to promote the full integration of the settlement into the Parish.*

*The 7 yearly Parish Appraisal has been conducted. This appraisal helps the Council with its long term planning and is used as evidence when we interact with the District Council on planning matters.*

*The Parish Council is financed through a precept (tax) on each household collected by ENC. For 2009-10 it was £9,000. In view of the current economic climate, at the January meeting the Council had agreed to hold the Precept at the same level as last year. Savings have been made to cope with inflationary pressures including changing the Council's insurers and the placing the 2010 grass cutting contract with a new contactor from Cambridge.*

*The first cut from the contractor was not up to standard, but the second looked more promising. We will persevere with this contractor, managing them closely, as the savings are significant and necessary to balance the books.*

**Adrian Dale, Chairman of the Parish Council.**

# Parish Council Annual Report 2010

## Finance for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

Let's start with the headlines figures

Balance brought forward	£ 7,844.86
Receipts in year	£ 12,062.19
Expenditure in year	£-12,372.05
Balance carried forward	£ 7,535.00

The receipts were made up of

Precept	£9,000.00	
Bank interest	£ 4.38	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Traditionally donated by the Chairman to pay my wages!
Allotment rents	£ 320.00	16 tenants
Grants to the Council	£1,884.95	NCC £586.95, Cllr Lawson £500 & Insurance £798
VAT recovery	£ 851.86	Claimed back from the year before.

If you have ever wondered what the Precept is or how it works, read on.

The Council calculates how much it needs in November for the next year and tells ENC the Precept amount in January. Then from April, it's collected from you (the residents) as part of the Council Tax. There are approx 221 houses in the parish, but some have discounts (e.g. MOD ownership, single occupancy, etc), so the number paying was reduced to 158. This gave a typical Band D figure of £9,000/158 = £56.96 a year for 2009-10.

(For 2010-11 the numbers for a typical Band D figure are £9,000/157 = £57.32 a year).

The expenditure was

Grass cutting	£4,219.63	Includes payment for previous year.
Street Lighting	£2,524.39	Includes payment for previous year.
General Admin	£1,151.25	Printing, postage, mileage, internet, courses, fees.
Replacement lamps (3)	£1,047.73	2 covered by insurance payouts.
Allotment	£ 908.12	Lease and fencing.
Insurance	£ 432.01	
Parish Appraisal	£ 200.00	
Village hall hire	£ 162.50	11 Council meetings & 2 Parish Assemblies
Grants to village groups	£ 150.00	Fireworks
Annual Audit	£ 135.00	
Memorial	£ 11.92	Replacement chains
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the chairman.
VAT (recoverable)	£1,428.50	To be claimed back next year.

**Assets** (or what does the Council own?)

44 Street lamps (Chelveston = 35, Caldecott = 9)  
5 Public benches (Chelveston = 4, Caldecott = 1)  
2 War memorials and 2 Noticeboards

Office equipment of a laminator and a paper shredder  
all held by the Clerk.

The Council does not own any land in the parish. The allotment site is leased from a farmer, 305<sup>th</sup> BG memorial site is licensed from NCC and the village hall is owned by a charity.

## Parish Council Members & Officers

**Chair:** Adrian Dale, 21 Water Lane (622624).  
**Vice:** Melvyn Wooding, *Melrose Cottage*, Caldecott.  
**Martin Emerson**, *Middle Farm House*, the Green.  
**Michael Foulger**, *Haleworth*, Caldecott.

**Glenn Harwood MBE**, 7 Britten Close.  
**Mick Izzard**, 6 Pretoria Cottages, Raunds Road.  
**Patricia Mommersteeg**, *Church House*, Caldecott.  
**Clerk:** Mark Hunter *Ashbury*, Caldecott (626039).

E-mails to the Council on [Clerk@Chelveston.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@Chelveston.org.uk)