

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

## Parish Council Annual Report 2011

This is the formal Annual Report of the Council's activities, given by the Chairman, Cllr Adrian Dale, at the Annual Parish Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011.

### **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 APA.*

*The Parish Council considered 9 planning and licensing applications this year – a decrease from 11 in 2010. Nevertheless, the work for the Clerk was even heavier than previous years because the CRE wind farm application involved several iterations, as the issues were identified and counter-claimed by the applicant's consultants. This year no applications were decided differently by the District, though one has been withdrawn and 4 are yet to be decided.*

*The Council continues to be well regarded by the ENC planning team and, as a result, gets excellent support from them in our work. This has certainly been the case during pre-application consultations over the redevelopment of the JST site which will be kicking off this year.*

*Six older 80w mercury (white) street lamps have been replaced with 35w sodium (yellow) lanterns, three in Caldecott and three in Chelveston along Water Lane and Foot Lane. The new lamps are cheaper to run and the old ones need to be replaced anyway by 2015 in order to comply with EU regulations. The Council will shortly be taking adopting the 14 lamps at Chelston Rise now that they have been upgraded and tested by the site owners.*

*The "Street Doctor" service is still working well, especially when problems are reported by the Clerk or the Councillors. In addition to the usual pothole repairs, contractors installed 3 wheelchair compliant drop kerbs on the Caldecott Road, replaced a section of footway near Hawthorn House and removed an old bollard in Foot Lane.*

*Raunds Road has at last been patched up following several complaints, but there are on-going issues with the poor quality resurfacing of the B645, especially near School House bend. The latest news is that remedial works will take place in May/June.*

*The Parish Council was also instrumental in sorting out a prolonged leak in Water Lane, with the help of Anglian Water and NCC.*

*Work has also been undertaken with the Police Safer Community Team (SCT) following reports of speeding, particularly through Caldecott. The SCT has carried out enforcement checks and confirmed there is some evidence of vehicles driving at excess speed. Two vehicles have been stopped in relation to lighting offences. Further checks will be carried out over the coming weeks.*

*Negotiations with WPG, the owner of Chelston Rise, has resulted in safety surface on the play area being repaired*

*and the play equipment being inspected on a six monthly basis prior to adoption by the Parish Council. Once fully adopted, the play area will be available for use by the whole village. With the equipment alone costing over £45,000, this is a major addition to the amenities of the village and thanks must go to WPG for the donation and to the Clerk for handling the complex legal processes involved.*

*Operation Spring Clean in March resulted in 11 bags of rubbish, a box of rubbish, two car wheels with tyres and an old sign being collected by volunteers. Special thanks must again go to John Britten for his sterling efforts and for continuing with litter picking on a regular basis.*

*The new grass cutting contractor took a little time to get used to the village last year, but eventually got up to speed. Significant savings have resulted from this new contract. The first cut this March (2011) went well, with a seasoned operative from last year's team guiding them round the village. Cllr Melvyn Wooding marked out the location of all the daffodil clumps in Caldecott so that none were damaged during the first cut.*

*There were no major flooding incidents during 2010 as all of the ditches were kept clear of debris. However, there are still some problems with the pipes under the Water Lane ford. These were jetted once during the year to clear them and a mesh was installed to keep the pipes clear. This was later removed when it became clogged and so may become a problem again. The Council has identified all the areas in the parish that are at risk from flooding and reported these to ENC's consultants for the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Review. An inspection of the major risk areas is undertaken by ENC after each major spell of rain.*

*The Parish Council was unsuccessful in its National Lottery for funding to pay for sheds and a water supply, the sheds eventually being funded by a donation from a resident. The official opening event took place in September once the planting was established. All but two tenants renewed their leases in February. Two new tenants have taken up new leases and so all the plots are taken for the next year. A further grant application has been submitted to the National Lottery to pay for a water main to be installed.*

*As well as the "Welcome" booklet delivered to all new residents, the Parish Council also produced a walking guide to the Chelveston Plateau with the help of Dean and Shelton Parish Council. 300 copies have now been issued, with all households receiving a copy, together with local libraries and the church. The digital version has been published on the ENC tourism website. It should be mentioned that Preserve donated funds for 100 of these to be printed.*

*The Clerk develops and maintains the Council's web site which continues to be well used with 17,108 hits in 2010. The history pages are particularly popular with many overseas readers and requests for family tree information.*

# Parish Council Annual Report 2011

## Finance for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Let's start with the headlines figures

Balance brought forward	£ 7,535.00
Receipts in year	£ 17,312.52
Expenditure in year	£-13,943.09
Balance carried forward	£ 10,904.43

The receipts were made up of

Precept	£9,000.00	
Bank interest	£ 5.50	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Traditionally donated by the Chairman to pay my wages!
Allotment rents / bonds	£ 680.00	16 tenants, plus bonds on maintaining their sheds.
Grants to the Council	£6,017.52	Inc WPG, NCC, NACRE, Preserve
VAT recovery	£1,428.50	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. single occupancy, etc), so the number paying was reduced to 157. This gave a typical Band D figure of £9,000 / (157\*52) = £1.10 a week for 2010-11.

[For 2011-12, the Precept has increased by £500, but the number of contributing houses has also increased to 168, so for a typical Band D property the figures are £9,500 / (168\*52) = £1.09 a week].

The expenditure was

Play Area	£3,352.00	Paid for by grants received
Allotments	£2,488.10	Lease and 16 sheds (covered by rent and donation).
Street Lighting	£1,728.00	
Grass cutting	£1,295.30	
General Admin	£1,186.20	Printing, postage, mileage, internet, courses, fees.
Replacement lamps (6)	£ 835.04	1 free as the contractor replaced the wrong one!
Insurance	£ 445.63	
Parish Appraisal results	£ 275.00	Paid for by grants received.
Village hall hire	£ 196.00	11 Council meetings & the Parish Assembly.
Grants to village groups	£ 150.00	Fireworks
Annual Audit	£ 135.00	
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the chairman.
VAT (recoverable)	£1,855.82	To be claimed back next year.

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 (following the May local election)

**Chair: Adrian Dale**, 21 Water Lane (622624).  
**Vice: Melvyn Wooding**, *Melrose Cottage*, Caldecott.  
**Martin Emerson**, *Middle Farm House*, the Green.  
**Glenn Harwood MBE**, 7 Britten Close.

**Jennifer Harwood**, 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)