

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

## Parish Council Annual Report 2007

This is the formal Annual Report of the Parish Council's activities up to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Those of you who attended the Annual Parish Assembly (APA) held earlier on the same evening will have heard some of this already, but the Council felt that it was important that it was available to all the residents.

### The Chairman's statement from the APA

*The Council has met 13 times since the last APA. It has considered 12 planning applications, none had been decided differently by the District, but 4 were still to be determined at the time of the meeting. Some 440 items of correspondence have been received (plus 1,000 e-mails). The twin focus throughout the year was opposition to the Chelveston Renewable Energy Ltd development proposals and the 305<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group war memorial project*

*Along with Preserve and other councils, objections were lodged to both the generator & substation application made in September 2006 and the anemometer mast renewal made in March 2007.*

*The memorial has been taking shape over the year and has generated a large amount of interest from surrounding areas, with people coming to view it from afar. Lots of residents have contributed either through funding or providing skills or resources and we noticed a real sense of community ownership surround the project.*

*The old Rights of Way have been reopened across the former airfield (albeit in fenced corridors) and maintenance work had been carried out to try and solve the flooding on the Joes/High Lane section behind Disbrowe Court.*

*During the year, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) had announced its intention to seek unitary status to take over the powers and functions of the 7 District & Borough Councils. This announcement failed to achieve the backing the NCC Chief Executive had hoped for and he has now resigned. From a local perspective, this is very good news, as we have a far better working relationship with (and get better service from) East Northants Council than we have ever done from NCC and their highways partners, Atkins.*

*The grass cutting contractors had provided an excellent service, but the May cut was felt to be below standard. The Council has replaced an old mercury lamp in Water Lane with a brighter, but more energy efficient sodium unit and we are looking to replacing a lamp in Duchy Close that has a cracked base.*

*The Council's web-site [www.chelveston.org.uk](http://www.chelveston.org.uk) continues to grow, especially the history pages, so much so that we had to increase the server space size that hosts it. The free parish newsletter has also stepped up to bi-monthly issues, plus the election special which preceded our first full election in 24 years. The average turnout around the district was around 33%, but over 57% of the village expressed their democratic choice in this hall at the start of May, so the new Council can truly say it represents the parish*

*Earlier in the year I thanked Robin Meeson, Adrian Palfreeman & Sarah Stopps for their contribution to the Council over the last term. All three had decided to stand down at the May elections and so we start with new Council year with Martin Emerson, Glenn Harwood & Patricia Mommersteeg joining Michael Foulger, Mick Izzard, Melvyn Wooding and myself as the Council for 2007-2011".*

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

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

44 Street lamps (Chelveston = 35, Caldecott = 9)

5 Public benches (Chelveston = 4, Caldecott = 1)

4 Litter bins (Water Lane = 3, Caldecott = 1)

2 War memorials and 2 Noticeboards

Office equipment comprising a colour photocopier, a laminator and a paper shredder all held by the Clerk.

The Council does not own any land in the parish. The memorial site is licensed from NCC and the village hall being owned by an educational charity.

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Edited by the Clerk.

O/2007/074/MHH

# Parish Council Annual Report 2007

## Finance for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

Let's start with the headlines figures

Balance brought forward	£12,473.76
Receipts in year	£18,641.63
Expenditure in year	£29,756.52
Balance carried forward	£ 1,358.87

The receipts were made up of

Precept	£ 5,500.00	
Bank interest	£ 290.21	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Traditionally donated by the Chairman to pay my wages!
Grants to the Council	£ 930.45	From NCC £544.76 & ENC £385.69.
Memorial appeal	£10,834.29	
VAT recovery	£ 1,085.68	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 were 200 houses in the parish, but some had discounts (e.g. single occupancy, in receipt of certain state benefits, etc), so the number paying reduced to 161. This gave a typical Band D figure of £5,500/161 = £34.16 (or about 66p a week).

The expenditure was

Memorial	£19,168.25	
Grass cutting	£ 2,724.06	8 monthly cuts starting in March.
Street Lighting	£ 1,526.80	Power, maintenance & replacements.
General Admin	£ 1,062.57	Printing, postage, mileage, internet, courses, fees.
Grants to village groups	£ 415.74	Fireworks, funday, bulb planting.
Insurance	£ 408.81	Includes cover for the new memorial.
New bench	£ 385.69	Covered by the ENC grant.
Village hall hire	£ 145.00	13 Council meetings & 2 Parish Assemblies.
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the chairman.
VAT (recoverable)	£ 3,918.60	To be claimed back next year.

## 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**, 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)

### Disturbance at the June Planning Committee meeting at ENC.

We were delighted at the fantastic public turn out at the June ENC planning committee meeting. However, we have heard from the planning committee that they were very irritated by persistent "heckling" and "loud comments" throughout the meeting from the public gallery. Some of the committee were so frustrated that they nearly changed their views and voted for the application! Let's learn from this and ensure that at the next meeting we all follow due procedure. If we don't, then the Chair of the Committee is entitled to clear the gallery potentially preventing the legitimate concerns of residents being heard. Thanks.