

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

## Parish Council Annual Report 2008

This is the formal Annual Report of the Council's activities up to the Annual Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

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

*The last 12 months have been an exceptionally busy year for the Parish Council. There have been 13 formal meetings since the last APA and many visits and discussions between meetings – long gone are the days when 6 meetings a year were sufficient!*

*This Council considered 10 planning applications this year, several of which were highly controversial, requiring much research and correspondence as well as two speeches in person to the planning committee in Thrapston. Only one application has been decided differently by the District. Even this application (temporary extension to the CRE anemometer mast) was satisfactorily resolved by agreement.*

*Along with Preserve and other councils, strenuous objections were lodged to the first generator application, resulting in East Northants Council (ENC) refusing permission in June. We also objected to the Biomass application made in January, which has yet to be decided by Northants County Council (NCC). Our goal in these representations has been to defend the Greenfield status of the former MOD land.*

*The parish is fortunate in now having more rights of way than most villages. The Parish Council continues to work with NCC ROW officers to replace stiles and signage so that paths remain in a usable state for as much of the year as possible. Unfortunately, we have been less successful with pavements and roads in the village. In spite of a detailed pavement and road survey conducted by the Parish Council and several representations to NCC, our pavements and roads are in a dreadful state of repair. We have now raised formal complaints with the NCC Directors of Customer Services and Highways.*

*Speeding traffic continues to be a concern in the village. The Safety Camera Partnership visit in June resulted in 31 offenders being caught in a three hour period in the 30mph zone. Traffic calming is expensive but will be a focus in 2008.*

*Following a structural survey we replaced a corroded concrete street light with a new steel one in Duchy Close, taking the opportunity to install a brighter, but more energy efficient sodium lamp. This was at no cost to the Parish, thanks to a £612 grant from our County Cllr, Derek Lawson MBE.*

*The Village experienced several incidents of localised flooding as drains and ditches became blocked. Unfortunately, some residents on the Green and Pretoria Cottages were flooded as culverts and ditches overflowed. The Parish Council worked with NCC and the Environment Agency to arrange for remedial ditch works along the Raunds Road to resolve the Pretoria Cottages problems. We are also working with NCC to explore how the drainage near Disbrowe Court can be improved. The Parish Council contacted landowners adjacent to Foot Lane in December asking them to clear the brook to avoid flooding problems in Water Lane.*

*The Parish Council organised the Operation Spring Clean in March, resulting in 45 sacks of rubbish, plus larger items, being recovered by volunteers. Special thanks must go to John Britten for his sterling efforts and for continuing with litter picking on a regular basis. We have had several incidents of serious fly tipping this year in Water Lane, Bidwell Lane and Kimbolton Road. ENC normally clear these quickly as soon as we have notified them – if Ray Knight hasn't beaten them to it first – thanks Ray!*

*The 305<sup>th</sup> BG memorial was dedicated last May, hugely supported by villagers and further afield, even making the Anglia News. The memorial continues to attract visitors, putting Chelveston on the map. Our thanks must go to Abi & James Barnett, Tom Powell and Mary Murphy for keeping the grass trimmed.*

*Our Clerk received some 310 items of paper correspondence (down on previous years) but the e-mail traffic has increased significantly, reflecting the trend toward e-government. This has been a very busy year indeed as the planning applications have required some very detailed research and responses. The Clerk develops and maintains the Council's website which continues to be popular, especially the history pages, with many overseas readers.*

*Finally, the Parish Council was awarded **Quality Parish Council** status, following an external review and accreditation in March, the first Parish Council in the District to achieve this. Our application was commended as an exemplar for other Councils. Ultimately it will allow the Village to run more of its own affairs if residents want more local control and to apply for new sources of funds from local or central government when they become available.*

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

# Parish Council Annual Report 2008

## Finance for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

Let's start with the headlines figures

Balance brought forward	£ 1,358.87
Receipts in year	£13,287.91
Expenditure in year	£10,497.96
Balance carried forward	£ 4,148.82

The receipts were made up of

Precept	£7,500.00	
Bank interest	£ 104.47	
Donation to the Council	£ 1.00	Traditionally donated by the Chairman to pay my wages!
Grants to the Council	£1,177.46	From NCC £565.46 & £612.00.
Memorial appeal	£ 580.00	
VAT recovery	£3,924.98	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 is reduced to 160. This gave a typical Band D figure of £7,500/160 = £46.88 (or about 90p a week).

The expenditure was

Grass cutting	£2,838.11	8 monthly cuts starting in March.
Street Lighting	£1,528.35	
Election costs	£1,136.65	First one in 24 years!
General Admin	£1,035.85	Printing, postage, mileage, internet, courses, fees.
Memorial	£ 798.80	
Replacement lamp	£ 612.00	Covered by the NCC Cllr empowerment grant.
Grants to village groups	£ 595.00	Fireworks, WI, St Johns Ambulance.
Insurance	£ 454.70	
Annual Audit	£ 285.00	
Village hall hire	£ 144.00	13 Council meetings & 2 Parish Assemblies.
Clerk's salary	£ 1.00	Donated by the chairman.
VAT (recoverable)	£1,068.50	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 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)