



Holmes Chapel Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Chairman's Report 2017 - 2018

Wow, what a Year! It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council this year.

Just prior to the year starting we saw the formal legal status of our Neighbourhood Plan being 'made'. This was followed later in the year by the formal approval of the Cheshire East Local Plan which completed the circle on a legal structure for future development in Holmes Chapel and across the borough. The Parish Council formed a new Strategic Planning Task Group at the beginning of the year to follow up all this hard work and consider what possible options there may be for the future of Holmes Chapel. This group, which consists of Parish Councillors and volunteers, are preparing a range of discussion documents that we expect to be available to all residents soon, so that we gather the many comments we know are essential in thinking about the future of our village.

During the year we have seen many activities taking place throughout the village and are pleased to see and report that the many community organisations are thriving. These include U3A, the churches organisations, Probus and many others. The Parish Council has continued to support these groups in whatever way it can. The Holmes Chapel Partnership organised the first 'Celebrating Holmes Chapel' show at the Community Centre which was very successful, and we look forward to the next one in September 2018. They also successfully organised the Christmas Market in December at which many local organisations and retailers were able to get us in the Christmas spirit. There is a project moving forward to create a 'Sensory Garden' in the village centre and we are pleased that the hard work on supporting a 'Dementia Friendly' village is showing success.

The Community Centre is now well established, and we are pleased to see that ES&R have now registered over 1,300 members for the Fitness & Gym facilities. The function room usage is growing, as is the use of the 'Taste for Life' Café/Bar. We were very pleased to see the new tarmac surface laid on the main drive in September, donated and laid by Highways England, who are leading the project to upgrade the M6. They also donated some additional Speed Indicator Devices to help monitor traffic on the A50 north and south of the village. The Skatepark has been well used over the year as well.

In August 2017 our Clerk, Nicola Clarke, resigned to take up a new full-time position as Clerk to Alsager Town council. This started us on a process to identify her replacement and Council was pleased to welcome Sue Davies as our new Clerk in late October. Our Administrative Assistant stepped into the breach in the intervening months and her assistance was invaluable in keeping the work of the Council moving forward.

Over the year, the council has been involved in many areas, delivering services to the village. These include:

- Frequent liaison with CEC Highways covering many traffic and roads issues.
- Actively supporting users in the CEC Bus Review and consultation
- The Police and especially our new PCSO Liz Chesters.
- Liaison with Holmes Chapel Health Centre and all our schools.
- Consideration of many planning applications covering a wide range of requirements of residents and others.
- The first Community Resilience event to consider what we may need to do in the event of an emergency.
- The Conservation Task Group has completed a lot of work to aid the protection of this area of the village.
- The use of a 'Lengthsman' to help keep the village tidy. Thanks also need to go to the Village Volunteers for their work.
- Completion of the Croco Path improvements and the installation of a second Defibrillator

The next year will no doubt also bring many challenges and opportunities and the Council looks forward to continuing to serve the village residents and businesses.

Councillor Brian Bath
Chairman of the Council
March 2018

Holmes Chapel Parish Council 2017/18

Income and Expenditure Account for Year up to 20 March 2018

31st March 2017		20 March 2018
	Operating Income	
188,436	Council Income	197,428
5,389	Grants & Donations	2,060
0	Village Maintenance	1,328
485	Dane Meadow Project	0
129,955	HC Community Centre Project	0
23,960	Youth Facilities Project	12,059
3,200	Neighbourhood Plan Project	0
0	Holmes Chapel Partnership	100
351,423	Total Income	212,975
	Running Costs	
37,071	Employees	30,774
4,479	Premises	3,767
3,749	Office Services	2,102
1,652	Communications	1,953
825	Members	376
9,244	Professional Services	13,086
1,563	Subscriptions	1,588
2,850	Grants & Donations	2,350
11,366	Village Services	14,325
8,423	Village Maintenance	5,284
0	HC Community Centre Revenue	75,893
8,925	Dane Meadow Project	0
232,467	HC Community Centre Project	9,960
31,306	Youth Facilities Project	25,203
4,124	Neighbourhood Plan Project	0
0	River Croco Path Project	20,245
5,148	Boundary Signs Project	0
840	Village Centre Improvements	1,307
1,059	Play Area Elm Drive Project	0
365,090	Total Expenditure	208,214
	General Fund Analysis	
105,593	Opening Balance	66,927
351,423	Plus : Income for Year	212,975
457,017		279,902
365,090	Less : Expenditure for Year	208,214
91,927		71,688
25,000	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	20,000
66,927	Closing Balance (20 March 2018)	51,688*

*Note: £35,000 of the closing balance is already earmarked for capital projects