



Holmes Chapel Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Chairman's Report 2018 – 2019

Another great and busy year for the Parish Council and it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve again as Chairman.

We have been pleased to continue supporting the many organisations and residents of our community. The Holmes Chapel Partnership organised the 'Celebrating Holmes Chapel' show in September, followed by a well-attended Christmas Market. The Partnership also took on managing the Christmas Sleigh which was very well received. The many other community organisations are thriving, and the Parish Council has continued to support these groups in whatever way it can. The joint project with the Partnership to create a 'Sensory Garden' in the village centre was completed.

With a legal Neighbourhood Plan in place alongside the Cheshire East Local Plan we have seen fewer applications for large scale housing. But the work by developers on the existing housing applications is still a source of several issues with residents. The Parish Council has reviewed over 60 planning applications this year, most for house improvements. Included in this was an application for commercial buildings for the Manor Lane Business Park, which we were pleased to support. This has been granted approval and we expect work to commence in the summer of 2019.

Regrettably, significant improvements to the village infrastructure of roads, schools and other services has not moved forward at the same pace as housing development. The Parish Council is pursuing actions with Cheshire East to try and address these. The work on the upgrade of the M6 to a 'smart' motorway has had a continuing effect on the village with a significant increase in traffic due to accidents and closures. It is hoped that once the work has been completed on the section of J16 to J19 by the end of March 2019, traffic will return to some normality. There are issues with HGVs using the wrong route and with speeding, but we are pleased to see the police tackling these areas of concern. We did see the resurfacing of the road and roundabouts in the "The Square" which has made a big difference.

The Community Centre has maintained its success with over 1,300 members registered for the Fitness & Gym facilities. The function room usage continues to grow, as does use of the 'Taste for Life' Café/Bar. The Skatepark has also been well used. The Parish Council were pleased to complete phase 1 of the car park by moving the entrance and providing additional parking. Work will start next year to consider phase 2 and move the car park to the former bowling green.

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.
- The Police and especially our PC Roger Need and PCSO Liz Chesters.
- Liaison with Holmes Chapel Health Centre and all our schools.
- The Conservation Task Group has completed a lot of work to provide information boards and maintain the protection of this area of the village.
- The use of a 'Lengthsman' to help keep the village tidy. Thanks also to the Village Volunteers for their work.
- The extension of the Christmas lights into Macclesfield Road.
- Working with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Cheshire East to improve the grassland in the Dane Meadow to provide a wild flower meadow.

In November 2018 our Clerk, Susan Davies, resigned to take up a new full-time position as Clerk to Kidsgrove Town Council. We are pleased to welcome her replacement, Tina Cartlidge, to the Council. The support of our Administrative Assistant Sue McKay in the intervening months was invaluable in keeping the work of the Council moving forward.

Council elections are being held in May. I am sure that the new council will continue to address the many challenges and opportunities and continue to serve the village residents and businesses.

Councillor Brian Bath
Chairman of the Council
March 2019

Holmes Chapel Parish Council 2018/2019

Income and Expenditure Account for Year up to 15 March 2019

31 March 2018		15 March 2019
	Operating Income	
198,447	Council Income	209,971
2,060	Grants & Donations	1,832
1,328	Village Maintenance	840
12,059	Youth Facilities Project	0
100	Holmes Chapel Partnership	5,249
213,994	Total Income	217,892
	Running Costs	
35,078	Employees	38,921
4,876	Premises	3,732
2,215	Office Services	2,903
1,810	Communications	1,606
540	Members	299
12,096	Professional Services	10,919
1,588	Subscriptions	1,704
2,350	Grants & Donations	4,373
14,519	Village Services	17,302
5,332	Village Maintenance	8,685
75,893	HC Community Centre Revenue	69,045
9,960	HC Community Centre Project	19,420
25,203	Youth Facilities Project	1,321
20,245	River Croco Path Project	0
1,307	Village Centre Improvements	7,326
0	Highways & Infrastructure	271
213,013	Total Expenditure	187,827
	General Fund Analysis	
66,927	Opening Balance	10,928
213,994	Plus : Income for Year	217,892
280,921		228,820
213,013	Less : Expenditure for Year	187,827
67,908		40,993
20,000	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	16,980
47,908	Closing Balance (15 March 2019)	57,973*

* Note: £39,000 of the closing balance is already earmarked for capital projects