

Chairperson's Report

Snow in Broughton – The Parish Council would like to thank all villagers who helped clear snow last December and this February. It was good to see people helping their neighbours. Although snow doesn't happen that often the Parish Council are going to purchase a small grit spreading device. (This is the size of a small line marking machine. However we have nowhere to store it. If anyone has somewhere suitable please contact me).

Village Website – This can be found at www.broughton-oxon.uk. You will find all Parish Council documents on there, and eventually there will be details about the village. The Parish Councillors are not very IT minded so if you are able to help us expand this website please let us know. Your help would be appreciated

Planning Applications - Applications submitted to CDC are passed onto the Parish Council who give careful consideration to the impact that the building would have on individuals and to the village as a whole. We wish to preserve the rural character of the village.

Highways – The Parish Council is in regular contact with the Highways Authority advising them of works required to ensure public safety. Any potholes can be reported to the Parish Council who will endeavour to have them repaired as soon as possible. However it is possible to report them yourself by going to www.fixmystreet.com and this is a very easy process. We are very aware that as soon as the council fill in one pothole another one appears.

Speeding - This is still an important issue, especially on the Main Road. We are pleased to say that Dave Yeomans was able to refurbish our Vehicle Activated flashing speed sign and fitted it with a solar panel to keep the battery charged and continues to maintain it for us. The Councillors discuss speeding at nearly every meeting and are considering purchasing Speed Watch equipment in conjunction with Hornton, Tadmarton, Swalcliffe and Shenington.

Car Park - At long last we have heard back from CDC and it has been agreed that the Parish Council can lease the village car park for a peppercorn rent. This has the condition that we don't build any houses on it, which obviously we don't want to do. In fact the lease was signed recently so we will be putting up a car park sign shortly. Thank you to Hamish Gardiner for keeping the car park as tidy as possible.

Bottle Bank- Two bottle banks have recently been placed in the car park and despite a few hiccups have been working well.

Litter- In general the village remains litter free and thanks are extended to all for helping to keep the village tidy. However 'fly tipping' does still occur and incidents of fly tipping should be reported to the Council who will remove it as soon as possible. A recent village clean up collected 6 bags of rubbish from the surrounding roads. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Main Road Clear up – Thank you to everyone who has again helped to keep the footpath along the main road clear.

Grass Maintenance - The Council continue to monitor the contract for grass cutting both in the churchyard and the Jubilee Tree site to ensure that the work is carried out to a high standard. This is important as grass maintenance accounts for a substantial part of our expenditure.

In addition the Parish Council has taken over the cutting of the verges within the 30 mph limit in Broughton. A strimmer has been purchased and the Chair would like to thank the team of people who helped keep the grass looking neat and tidy during the year. We also trimmed back trees and bushes to improve visibility at junctions, and even discovered a wall that hadn't been seen for years! If anyone else would like to assist we would be very grateful. The verge along Sandfine Road from the Saye and Sele Arms down to The Castle Lodge has been cleared by a contractor. We would like to keep it cut several times a year and are looking for a new contractor to do this.

Church footpath - The footpath is uneven and the council would advise continued care when walking especially during wet weather.

Elections - Broughton Parish Council has an election this year and a notice will be published on 27th March. There are five seats to fill. If there are no more than five candidates, they will be elected unopposed. If there are more than five, there will be an election on 3rd May. If you would like to stand you can obtain nomination papers from the Parish Clerk, Mrs Christine Coles, broughtonpc@btinternet.com or 01295 276229. The deadline for nominations is April 6th.

Dogs - We would like to say a big thank you to the majority of dog owners who responsibly clean up after their dogs and use the 4 dog bins provided by the Parish Council. Please could we remind people to also clean up after their dogs in the fields around Broughton. Failure to do this could result in livestock catching parasites from dogs and parasites damage farm animals that are grazing. In view of the facilities that have been provided we feel that there should be no dog mess in the village and would not hesitate to report anyone who is seen.

The Council extend their thanks to Lord Saye and Sele for the continued facility to the village of access to the Castle Grounds. My thanks go to our Parish Clerk and to fellow Councillors for their continued help and support.

Unaudited Accounts for year ending 31 March 2018

Income

Precept	£5000.00
Grants	£788.37
Donation	£360.00
VAT	£750.97
Total	£6899.34

Expenditure

Employee Salary	£862.21
Employee Costs	£112.71
Agency Services	£75.00
Public Works Loan – Capital	£261.15
PWL – Interest	£184.11
Dog Bin Emptying	£384.38
Insurance	£548.01
Mowing	£1950.00
Website	£245.86
Donations	£100.00
General Maintenance	£250.18
Other	£736.65
Total	£5710.26
End of year balance	<u>£3539.73</u>

