



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IS CANCELLED

Due to Social Distancing Guidelines the Annual Parish Meeting is cancelled as are the May 2020 Parish Councillor Elections. As such your current Parish Councillors will continue to serve until May 2021.

Chairman: Nigel Galletly 3 Allens Orchard, Chipping Warden, Banbury Oxon
OX17 1LX
01295 660365 or chair@chippingwarden.org

Vice Chairman: David Cross

Councillors: Phil Brown Natasha Val Woodford Hamish Gairdner
Don Hussey Douglas Clare Brooke
Nick Meades

Clerk: Lorraine Stanley 6 Appletree Road, Chipping Warden, Banbury Oxon
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Parish Council Website : www.chippingwarden.org

To keep you informed we are distributing the Chairman's Report and Financial Statement as usual. If you have any queries please get in touch and we will try to clarify as much as we can.

We are increasingly receiving and circulating information by email. If you would like to be included in our distribution list for any local information please provide your email address to the Parish Clerk. **Send an email to clerk@chippingwarden.org** . Please note that if you provide your email address the Parish Clerk will use it to circulate information deemed of interest to parishioners and your details will be held for this purpose alone.

Parish Council Chairman's Report

When writing this report we are uniquely aware of the Coronavirus emergency which has made holding an annual village meeting impossible this year. Hopefully the crisis will pass the parish by without a great impact on the community.

CoronaVirus: We have not heard of anyone infected in the Parish, but anticipate it is probably only a matter of time. To assist those who may be self-isolating or have been told by the NHS to 'stay at home' the Parish has formed a volunteer group to assist with shopping, medical collections etc. The group is being co-ordinated by Michael Beckett (660661) and Liz Thame (660254) so please get in touch with them if you find yourselves in need of assistance. They have tried to split those in difficulty between our group of local volunteers who can try to address any needs.

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For those in financial hardship as a result of the virus we have also managed to source some Food Bank deliveries from SOFEA who are waiving their normal subscription charges due to the crisis.

If out exercising, please wear gloves when opening gates and using stiles, and remember to shut the gates behind you. And don't forget to 'wash your hands' immediately on return home.

Local Government Reorganisation: As a result of the Government's review following the enforced suspension of spending at Northamptonshire County Council there will be a complete reorganisation of the local government structure in 2020/2021 to replace Northamptonshire's County Council and its District Councils with two Unitary Authorities. One covering the east of the county and one covering the west which means the existing South Northants District Council, Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council will merge to make a new West Northamptonshire Council. This is the biggest shake-up of local authority services that will affect us and we are waiting to see the outcome but many in the villages have concerns that the City Borough's needs may strip resources from the two mainly rural district bodies.

As the Unitary Authority will be created next year the Government had cancelled all County, District and Parish elections in May 2019 and all existing councillors were left to serve an additional year. New elections were to have been held in May 2020 to Parish Councils and a Shadow Authority which was to run alongside the current councils but this has been postponed till May 2021 due to the COVID-19 crisis. Elections to the new West Northamptonshire Council are still planned to occur in May 2021.

Parish Council functions will be largely unaffected although some changes in our means of representation to the new authority may be enacted. This is yet to be fully determined. The Parish Council was to have been elected on Thursday 7th May 2020 for a five year period to tie in with the next election of the new West Northamptonshire Council Unitary Authority in 2025. We await developments after the COVID-19 crisis is over but we assume the new election period will be for 4 years.

As we reported last year you will have noticed in your March Council Tax Demand that the Parish Council raised their precept again in 2020 by 21% from a total of £9,500 to £11,500. – See Annual Accounts attached.

In comparison to local villages we still charge less: Full details of Northamptonshire Parish precepts are published by SNC and should be available online.

Meetings related to the Local Government Reorganisation have added to the Parish Council's busy year dealing with Hs2 Limited and their appointed contractor Fusion JV who are responsible for the Enabling Works. We have all seen the effect as the Relief Road takes shape and hopefully they will be able to finish the work on time by August but at present everything is being scaled back due to the COVID-19 emergency. At present Fusion are still hoping to complete the works on time.

I will now deal with current issues being addressed by your Council.

Your Councillors are always available if you need more information.

Hs2: £10 billion committed and having finally got its Third official Go-Ahead Hs2 looked at last to be on course for construction. Then COVID-19 turned up and

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Government spending has gone crazy. Whether there are funds to carry on with the railway is yet to be seen.

Every household in the Parish should now know all about the current works underway relating to the Relief Road and the associated roadworks. The Fusion JV Engagement Team have done their best to keep the information flow going with regular Drop-ins at the Village Hall and local pubs. Originally we were told that the Relief Road construction would most likely be finished by Christmas 2018 – Last year we were told maybe Christmas 2019 now it's looking like August 2020. Hopefully.

The 'Enabling Works' for Hs2 which had begun involved all the test drilling, replacement habitat creation and archaeology ahead of the main railway works due to start late April 2020. Although that is now on hold.

The contract for the detailed railway design in our area was awarded to Eiffage-Kier (EK) and construction was scheduled to commence in our area in April 2020 with EK getting ready by expanding the construction site.

Since there is so much work associated with the green tunnel and the Edgcote Viaduct our area is classified a critical part of the project. Under the current plans they plan to finish the Relief Road early in the process - Phase II - joining the main roundabout to the old A361 nearer the crossroads and removing the small roundabout north of the school. EK can then use the entrance off the main roundabout on the bypass to access their site and move vehicles up and down the railway trace without impacting the village.

Top soil needs to be stripped off the airfield and stored in bunds and then excavation can get underway to remove much of the underlying limestone that will be used in the construction of the railway. Eventually it is planned to quarry out at least 10 metres down. EK plan to build an on-site batching plant at the bottom of the excavation to mix the cement locally rather than import the massive quantity needed by road which should help reduce traffic on the A361 to Banbury. When finished the ground level will be re-instated and top-soil replaced for agriculture.

These and other significant efforts have been made to minimise the number of HGV movements on the A361 and surrounding roads so hopefully it will not be as bad as we feared for the next few years.

Additionally it is now planned to construct 'modular' residential units on the airfield compound for Hs2 employees. We understand these are in units containing 80 rooms each and the initial plan is for 2 of these (160 employees on site) but this is scalable up to 5 units (400 employees on site) if demand requires.

The detailed railway design of some elements is still being completed and designs for the Edgcote and Lower Thorpe Viaducts (both of which are key design features) are soon to be ready for presentation. This work had been planned for this spring but COVID-19 has put such meetings on hold. As of the moment **ALL** EK works have been stood down with only the security teams patrolling and engineers at the Wormleighton 'Heave' site on hand to pump out any water accumulated following rainstorms. Once the emergency is over EK will arrange some presentations for all parishioners to show the detailed plans for the ongoing development.

The Enabling Works also included extensive archeological surveys of which Blackgrounds and Edgcote Battlefield are particularly important. Hs2 and Fusion have shared these projects with local bodies and schools to provide some community payback.

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There are still some issues facing us over the next few months relating to the Enabling Works but most is now nearing completion. In particular, in the short term, we now know that there will be:-

- Continuing roadworks in Wardington - to widen some of the bends and install a pedestrian crossing
- A roundabout on the Relief Road (north of the Appletree Road junction) which will be removed once EK have finished the railway build,
- A further roundabout at the junction back onto the existing A361 north of the school which will also be removed early on as part of Phase II,
- Only a small section of the Relief Road will be limited to 30mph - From the village boundary before Hogg End to just before the new Appletree Road turn,
- Work will continue to connect the north and south ends of the new Relief Road to the existing A361 along with the Appletree Road junction. This will hopefully be completed by August 2020.
- Finishing the cross road junction north of the village leading to Aston-Le-Walls
- From EK the design of the Edgcote Viaduct and improving sight lines with 'artistic shading' has yet to be finalised

We will do our best to keep you updated with information on these via the Parish Council Website and our Social Media. If your neighbours and friends are not tech-savvy please pass on what you can.

Culworth Road: Everyone should know that the Parish Council have continued their battle to attempt to keep Culworth Road open to traffic after the railway is built. We still feel that with the bypass now cutting off the village we need to secure a back door into or out of the village for any emergencies that may occur if the A361 is blocked. Also, it seems unfair that the railway will force us all to do a 2.4 mile diversion every time we travel to and from Culworth. We were rebuffed by HS2 Ltd at all three Select Committee Parliamentary hearings when it seemed no-one was really listening to our argument. We felt it was a little "Chipping Warden already have a bypass and a green tunnel so they shouldn't be complaining".

We did however get agreement for a Bridleway to be constructed back from the Calves Close Tunnel Portal to the cut off Culworth Road at the Threshing Barns to at least provide egress for walkers, cyclists and equestrians.

Following persistent nagging by our Councillors we managed to move the issue back to the fore of the agenda and unfortunately we were rebuffed again. It appears the light in the tunnel we reported last year was indeed an oncoming train!

We will keep nagging away.

Housing Developments (Affordable or Otherwise):

Your Council has a long-standing resolution that no housing development should be permitted outside of the village confines and will oppose any such development as a matter of principle should they come to planning stage.

Your Council strongly believe that the rules should be enforced to protect the village environment in an equal and fair manner and we are always proactive in this regard by bringing issues to the notice of the relevant authorities.

There is increased pressure on all planning authorities to allow more housing development, but Chipping Warden Village is defined as a restricted infill village and no property development should be permitted outside the current 'Village Confines'. The Village Confines have recently been reviewed (2017) as part of the new Local Structure Plan and minor changes have been proposed. The new confines have not

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yet been adopted due to the Unitary Authority reorganisation but are still planned to take effect.

We have included a map showing what is currently planned to be finally approved in 2021 when we understand the new Local Structure Plan will be adopted. We hope this re-adoption will give weight to their enforcement in future planning decisions. The Parish Council have objected to some of the extensions to the Village confines around Mill Lane which seem to be unnecessary. Hopefully the proposed Unitary Authority change will not impact existing planning guidance.

A planning application was made for 8 houses on the barns area at the sports field (which is within the existing confines) in 2019 but this was withdrawn by the applicant before decision. Having now been resubmitted it appears that part of one of the properties is outside the village confines so the Parish Council have again raised an objection.

A further permitted development application to convert an 'agricultural property' for Lotts Hovel at the end of Hogg End was submitted and it was ruled that any development on the site would require to be the subject of a full planning application. We have also had an application for a solar panel array down the bottom of the garden at The Spring House, Mill Lane which seems like an overly large installation for personal needs so the Parish Council have objected whilst awaiting more information.

Finally, we have had another application for the land off Long Barrow. This time apparently to build a single self-build dwelling of undetermined size. As this falls outside the Village Confines we have again objected.

Other Planning: There have been several applications for cutting/felling trees within the conservation area. **Residents should be aware that advance planning approval is required for ANY work on trees in the Conservation area.**

Overall your Council have considered many planning and consent applications during the year. We are not experts in planning rules but we are pleased to provide input at the pre-planning stage if any developments are considered. We have no formal right or veto over any application, but our opinion is considered as with any individual submission.

All planning applications can be viewed and commented on by anyone online at <http://snc.planning-register.co.uk/>. Enter the search criteria by Parish for Chipping Warden and Edgcote who appear at the bottom of the drop-down list. Or they can be inspected at the SNC Offices in Towcester.

All Parish Council, Local Authority Agency and neighbours' comments or objections are published with the details and plans of any application.

Play Area: There has been a long-standing wish for a better village children's play area.

A group of villagers has been working hard to develop a modern play area and park down Culworth Road on the existing site. Funding was available through the HS2 Community Environment Fund and along with a New Homes Bonus Grant from SNC we have managed to raise £95,000. The working group oversaw the bidding for the design and build contract on behalf of the Parish Council and have successfully appointed Dragon Play after a prolonged tendering process to create the site. We also held an open morning at the village hall for all to see the final plans and Dragon Play donated additional equipment which was chosen by ballot from those attending. It was hoped that construction would have commenced on 25th March and

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completion by the end of April but unfortunately, once again, COVID-19 has halted progress. The Council would very much like to thank those who put in such a great effort to get the scheme through to this stage.

Additional council business has continued as normal and the following has been of particular note.

Grass cutting: The Village has continued to receive excellent service from our contractor RD Landscapes and we have agreed to continue with their services for 2020/21. The green areas show great improvement from regular maintenance and the pruning and trimming keeps the village looking tidy. We would also like to thank all villagers who cut 'their bit' of the highways verge as it all assists in keeping costs down. However, there is an increasing incidence of parking cutting up our green verges throughout the village and the Council request that villagers try to minimise any such damage.

Once the Relief Road is complete then parking along the A361 and Appletree Road will be possible so this will hopefully improve.

Litter: Improved grass cutting exposes the litter that is mainly thrown from passing vehicles. If you see any on your walks through the village please pick it up and drop it in any of our bins. If we all do our bit we all benefit from a nicer environment. We would particularly like to thank Mr & Mrs Carr for their continued litter picking efforts around the village.

Flooding and Drainage: The drainage gullies have been cleaned out where required but the increase in heavy rain storms means we are still suffering localised flooding on occasion - particularly on the A361 at Culworth Road and Hogg End junctions. The Parish Council have been particularly vigilant with drainage plans in the Hs2 design when we hope some of the long standing issues may get addressed by improved drainage from the airfield site to the Cherwell.

Street lighting: Our Clerk is very proactive in reporting and chasing lighting repairs but if anyone notices malfunctioning street lights in the village please notify the Clerk or a local Councillor as we can only get them repaired if we know they are broken.

Dog Fouling: Following our appeal a few years ago for a while there was a marked improvement in the general state of the pathways. We would like to thank dog owners for their continued co-operation but recently more issues are being reported. One or two unsociable owners gives all a bad name. Residents should be aware that Daventry District Council have passed a by-law that means that anyone walking a dog within Daventry District Council area must have a supply of poop-scoop bags with them. This will be most likely be extended to the whole area under the new Unitary Authority proposals for 2021. Dog owners can now be stopped and failure to produce such items will result in on the spot fines. Dogs should be on leads at all times within the village boundaries and care must be taken with dogs running free on the Estate or airfield. A boisterous friendly dog can cause concern and possible injury to other walkers, particularly the older members of the parish and the owners may find themselves liable to prosecution. Please make sure you can control your dogs in all circumstances before letting them off the lead. Any fouling must be taken home and deposited in your black bins or composted. The local parish litter bins are

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NOT designed for this as they may not be emptied for extended periods. Tossing bags into trees and hedgerows where they hang like strange fruit is particularly unpleasant. Everyone's help would be appreciated.

Roads and Pavements: As ever we have been vigilant in reporting the increasingly numerous potholes to the authorities. These can also be reported by individuals by using the online Fix My Street application at <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>. It is simple to use – just enter your postcode, zoom in on the map and click the problem location then make a brief note of the problem and Submit. Photos of the offending pothole/problem can also be easily uploaded.

Parking: All villages suffer from problems with car parking and we are not immune. Many residences now have two or more vehicles and garages are often too narrow to accommodate them. Once the relief road is in place considerate parking on the main road will be possible but until then can everyone please think of others when parking their vehicle. There is no 'right' to park outside your property on the highway when doing so causes inconvenience to others. Parking on any part of a footpath is illegal but not often enforced and parking such that a wheelchair or pushchair cannot pass is also "causing an obstruction" and can be subject to an on-the-spot fixed penalty fine. Whilst many people park half on/half off in villages this is not really acceptable and also damages kerbs and footways which are not built for vehicles overriding. Some of the village verges are in a disgraceful state, perhaps now the weather is improving, the owners of these vehicles will undertake verge repairs. It is better to cause the cars to slow down parking properly in the road than force a pedestrian into the road to get past.

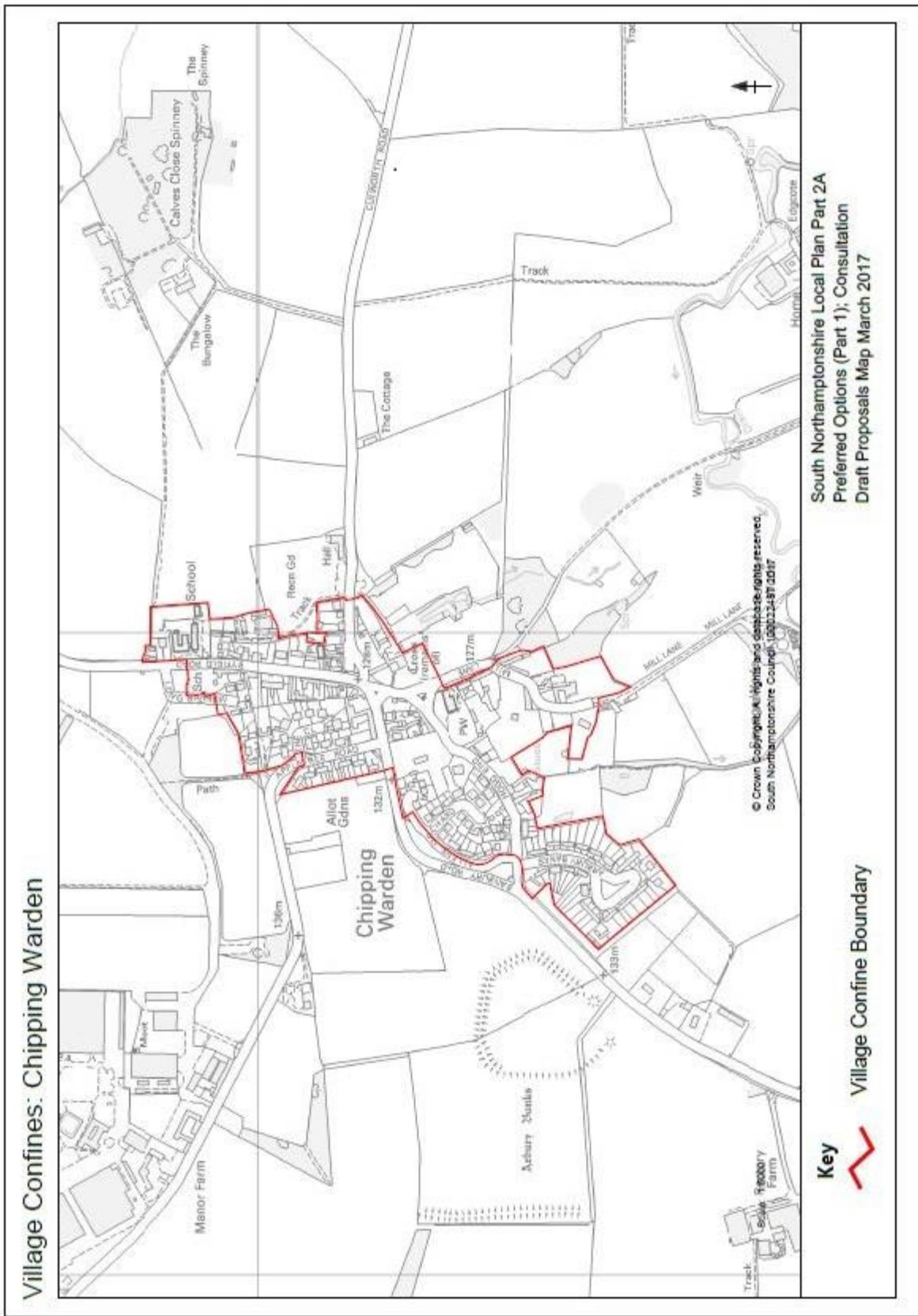
Also please consider carefully when parking on narrow roads such as Mill Lane and Hogg End to ensure sufficient access remains for wider farm vehicles, deliveries lorries and particularly emergency vehicles.

Bus Shelter Renovation: The Bus Shelter opposite the Rose & Crown has been refurbished and we have finally replaced the internal light, that has been absent for several years and now provides some much needed illumination in the area.

Website: www.chippingwarden.org : Information is available on the Parish Council Website at where copies of all the parish council minutes and associated public papers are also available for enquiry. News is also posted there and to the [Chipping Warden Community](#) page on Facebook. Any such information posted is also available from the Clerk.

Chairman – Nigel Galletly

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Reports from Village Organisations

Village Hall Trust - Mrs Ann Buckingham - Chairperson (01295 660244)

Bookings for the two halls has been steady over the last year. The high cost of running the halls has meant the following fund raising events were held: -

Easter/Christmas Bingo, Valentine Dance, Car Boot Sale and Halloween Supper.

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest we have stopped the Book Swap Club held on a Wednesday morning. We have two expensive projects going on at present – replacing rotten timber on the gable end and up dating the ladies toilets.

Anyone willing to help run our village halls please contact me on 01295 660244

Church of St Peter & St Paul - Barbara Bartlett & Liz Thame- Church Warden

It's been another busy year for St Peter & St Paul Church. We held a Coffee Morning, Pancake Races, two Lent Lunches (as usual money raised went to Charities), Spring Fete with the Sports Club, annual Auction, Flower and Produce Show, Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Lunch. Our services, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter (and Egg Hunt), Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas were all well attended. We thank you all for your support and hope that you continue to join us when you can – it is your Church

Chipping Warden and Edgcote WI - Gerry Kearse, President

The WI have had our usual busy year. Membership remains steady and we have a full committee to run and organise events. We have had several interesting speakers including a talk about p, and a visit by, a medical detection dog.

We celebrated our 100th birthday in July with a party and dancing to a live band, we are one of the oldest existing WI groups in the county. Continuing the social theme we had our Christmas meeting in the George and Dragon, Chacombe as well as a visit from Mother Christmas and a lovely dinner. We also have had pot luck suppers and the garden meeting (food and wine again!).

We also have run well attended film shows and a carol evening which raised money for the ward who cared for Hugo.

The WI continues to be a warm and supportive group, a chance to learn new things and the opportunity to socialise with friends. We welcome any guests or new members.

Chipping Warden Kindergarten – Lucy Cullen

Chipping Warden Kindergarten has remained healthy this year, with 37 children attending over the week. During the summer 2019 we had new artificial grass laid under our climbing frame and Kindy's outside walls re-rendered. The staff have been delivering some wonderful activities to the children in our care, and we have some new splendid displays, making our environment very stimulating and inviting to our families. Kindergarten has currently closed its doors due to government advice, during which time we are supporting our families at home.

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Chipping Warden Primary Academy – Mrs H Harding - Head of School

Chipping Warden Sports Club – Fiona Wilson – Secretary

The cricket team won the last game against Wicken Sports, and so as 2nd in the League have been promoted to Division 2 of South Northants Cricket League. In May the Sports Club supported the Church for the annual fete held in the Manor gardens. The Help for Heroes charity received £547 from Godfrey's annual quiz in November. A plaque was placed on the oak tree on the field in memory of Sam Hughes, cricketer and groundsman; his son Chris's ashes were scattered under the tree in May 2019. CWSC hopes that everyone in the parish stays safe in these difficult times.

Chipping Warden Brownies - Brenda Hewison (Brownie Leader)

The Brownies have had another busy year with our usual mixture of games, activities, sports and crafts during our weekly meetings, as well as venturing further afield. Nationally the Brownie programme has been updated across 6 broad themes, giving the girls a huge variety of activities to try and skills to learn. We have had great fun trying this out and have already earned some badges along the way, including a "Go bananas" badge to help raise funds for Guiding in Malawi and an "Act on Plastic" badge.

For our Brownie Holiday this year some of us spent 3 days on the Guide narrowboat Tuptonia where we travelled a few miles and worked 38 locks – much to the amazement of the local canal volunteers!

In the village we danced at the May Day fete, sang at the celebration for Barbara Bartlett's British Empire Medal and sang carols and rang handbells at the WI Carol Singing evening.

In the summer we said goodbye to Angie who had been helping us for 5 years and Laura and Fern who had been with us for 4 years and 2 years respectively. In September we were very pleased to welcome Rachel Wintersgill and Sally Jones as adult helpers.

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PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2020/21						
		2019-20	2019-20	Variance	2%	2020-21
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		BUDGET	Actual			BUDGET
ADMINISTRATION						
	Insurance	351	338	-4%	7	345
	Hall Hire	103	119	16%	2	121
	Stationery	200	160	-20%		200
	Audit Fees	187	176	-6%	4	180
	Clerk	2078	2017	-3%	40	2057
Sundries	Parish Award	75	43	-43%		75
	Web Hosting & IT	526	320	-39%	6	326
Subscriptions	NCALC	309	313	1%	6	319
	NCALC-DPO		10	N/A	0	10
	SLCC	61	0	-100%	0	0
	NCALC Training	0	0	N/A	0	200
S137	HS2	500	0	-100%	0	500
TOTAL		4390	3496			4294
Lighting						
	Supply	1901	1543	-19%	31	1574
	Maintenance	634	613	-3%	12	625
TOTAL		2535	2156			2199
Other Expenditure						
	Maintenance -					
	Trees	464	725	56%		500
	Bus Shelter	50	1277	2454%		50
	New Works	0	30	N/A		0
	New Works		22233	N/A		
	RoSPA	69	69	0%	1	70
	Grass Cutting	2500	2000	-20%		2500
	Sports Field Rent	250	250	0%		250
	VAT	1477	5286	258%		8000
TOTAL		4810	31870			11370
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>		11735	37522			17903
<u>INCOME</u>						
	Transfer from Reserves	946	38	N/A		0
	SNC Precept	9500	9500	N/A		11500
	Grass cutting	462	462	N/A		462
	Interest	2	3			3
	VAT	825	5286	N/A		8000
	Groundwork(Hs2)					
	grant	0	22233			
TOTAL INCOME		11735	37522			19965
<u>Excess/Deficit</u>		0	0			2062

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Notes to the accounts

£22233 cost for Play Area (billed to date) is balanced by Groundwork Grant from Hs2 as part of the £75,000 we have acquired – we also have some funding from SNC for the rest of the cost so hopefully (apart from 'ins and outs') there should be no impact on our finances due to construction. Once constructed we will have increased maintenance costs going forward.

This has a similar reflection in the VAT payments and reclaims.

Clerks salary increase for 2019-20 is yet to be agreed by Civil Service/Unions but increase is expected to be 2%.