



UPPER ARLEY PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to send you a copy of the Council's Annual Report for the last financial year. This sets out briefly the Council's achievements during the year and how the funds available to the Council were spent.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 25th April 2018

The Parish Council has again had a busy year but sadly some items are in the 'on going' stage, we hope they will be brought to fruition in the coming year.

As with all areas of the Country, local Councils have been meeting the Parish Councils to discuss the housing needs of the area and eventually, after many meetings, every household received a questionnaire to complete, giving them a chance to have their say too, on the types of homes needed. For example, starter homes or smaller bungalows for people to move into, leaving larger homes free for families, also what transport or shops were currently in the area or might be needed. Hopefully this will help in the future both locally and country wide.

The Parish Council has also started to extend the car park to help with the congestion at School times. We had only been allowed to extend to the right-hand side originally, but Arley Estates intends to submit plans to build more homes on the old allotments site, so now we have submitted plans to extend to the left-hand side, with a separate entrance and exit which should be a very safe option. It will also be a great help to the Memorial Hall who have now secured the funding to allow the demolition and rebuild of a new Hall which is desperately needed and should allow the Hall to be used for more, and different types of activities and parties. We wish them well for the future

A few years ago, we decided to take advantage of the Localism Act and take on the litter picking and bin emptying contract, which our Lengthsman, Sam and Tom Archer do in conjunction with their normal duties. The toilet cleaning contract is now being done by Angela from our Local Post Office and Stores, and our thanks to her for keeping everything tidy. Arley Estates has once again contributed to the running costs of the cleaning, so helping to look after visitors which are needed to keep the shop, Harbour Pub and the Arboretum going from strength to strength

We have given grants to Upper Arley School to help with transport costs to take the children for swimming lessons. St Peters Church has also been helped with the cost of maintaining the churchyard

We have obtained a grant to pay for the purchase and installation costs of Village Gateway signs. Plans of the sites are with the County Council at present awaiting approval. A grant has also been obtained for setting up a new website. The Parish Council is now required by the Transparency Regulations to make certain information available online and construction of the new website is underway at present. New laws on data protection are also underway and our Clerk, Angela, is preparing so that the Parish Council is compliant when the regulations come into force on the 25th May 2018. We are working towards achieving an award from the Local Council Award Scheme, all the work has been completed and we are in the process of being assessed at the moment, our thanks go to Angela for all her hard work in preparation for this award.

Some Councillors and the Clerk have attended training courses during the past year, with more training to be attended later this year, we feel it is best to keep up to speed with the changes coming our way and so enable us to perform as best we can both as a Council and as individual Councillors.

We look forward to the next year and to see all the projects we have started come to a conclusion and continue to work forwards to enhance our wonderful area.

Councillor G Rickhuss – Chairman to Upper Arley Parish Council 2017-2018

THE COUNCIL AND ITS ADMINISTRATION

The Council has held 10 monthly meetings during the year including its Annual General Meeting plus the Annual Parish Meeting, which is a meeting of residents and not a Parish Council meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and are invited to give their views or raise issues during Public Question Time.

Meetings are usually held on Wednesday evenings commencing at 7.30 p.m., Please see the notice boards for details and location of each meeting or contact the Clerk.

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2017-2018

Pound Green Ward: Arthur Cheadle, Edwin Gatehouse and Lesley Jackson

Shatterford Ward: Ellen Dale, Graham Rickhuss, Susan Rickhuss

Upper Arley Village Ward: John Lawley, Glynne Lilley, Tony Potter

Parish Clerk - Mrs Angela Preece, 24 Holmes Orchard, Alveley, WV15 6NX. Tel: 01746 781171. Mob: 07572 108924
email: arleyclerk@gmail.com

The Council's website can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish and follow the links to Upper Arley Parish Council but watch out for the link to the new website

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A summary of the accounts for the 2017-2018 financial year is shown overleaf. Upper Arley Parish Council reduced its precept for the 2018-2019 financial year to offset the increase made by the District Council.

LENGTHSMAN AND PARISH PATHS

The successful Lengthsman and Parish Paths schemes continue.

POLICE

The Police continue to attend Parish Council meetings or submit a report if they are unable to attend in person.

MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive future Annual Reports/Newsletters by email, please contact the Clerk. Due to the changes in the Data Protection Act coming into force on the 25th May 2018 we will need your written consent to hold your personal details for this purpose.

Upper Arley Parish Council Receipts and Payments Account as at 31st March 2018

RECEIPTS

Precept	£16,381.28
Shortfall Funding	£588.25
Vat Refund	£821.84
Interest	£43.24
Lengthsman	£1,749.00
Footpaths	£352.50
WFDC Contract (Litter & Grass Cutting)	£2,209.00
WFDC Contract (Public Toilets)	£0.00
R D Turner Estates (Grant Public Toilets)	£3,000.00
Transparency Fund Grant	£529.65
Defib Grant Cllr G Yarranton	£400.00
Defib Grant Cllr B Vale	£500.00
Notice Board	£1,140.00
Janitorial Direct Refund	£81.50
	£27,796.26

PAYMENTS

Staff Costs	£4,841.44
HRMC Taxation	£416.96
Other Admin	£1,881.56
Vat paid	£946.37
Audit Fees	£270.00
Insurance	£280.39
Room Hire	£40.00
Subscriptions	£350.64
Training	£87.75
Annual Report	£229.73
Grants	£100.00
Parish Quiz	£10.00
Planning	£234.00
Lengthsman	£2,101.00
Footpaths	£352.50
Wyre Forest Litter Contract	£1,740.00
Wyre Forest Grass Cutting Contract	£369.00
Grounds Maintenance	£278.00
Rushmere Nurseries	£300.00
Grit/Salt	£83.73
Public Conveniences	£3,825.23
Public Conveniences Paint	£40.00
VAS Batteries	£160.00
Signage	£160.00
Telephone Kiosk Refurbishment	£1,236.00
Noticeboard	£1,140.00
	£21,474.30

Balance as per Bank Statements 31/3/2017

Balance as per Bank Statements 31/3/2017	£60,698.89
Add Receipts	£27,796.26
Less Payments	£21,474.30
	£67,020.85

Balances as per bank statements 31/3/2018

Lloyds Current Account	£13,045.22
Lloyds Deposit Account	£28,946.87
CCLA Deposit Account	£25,028.76
	£67,020.85