

Corby Glen Parish Council

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

8th May 2019

The Parish Council continues to meet monthly, at the Willoughby Gallery, courtesy of the Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery Trust, who I would like to thank on behalf of the Parish Council.

Each meeting of the Council is preceded by an Open Forum, which provides parishioners with the opportunity to air issues of concern, either with regard to current business of the Parish Council, or other Parish matters.

The Parish Council has three main areas of activity:

- representing the interests of the parishioners of Corby Glen at all levels of government - district, county and, where necessary, central government.
- maintaining the Village Green and associated play equipment
- considering planning applications and representing the overall interests of the parish.

A wide variety of issues arise which the Parish Council seeks to progress to the benefit of the village as a whole, and its residents. I would like to summarise what the Parish Council has been doing over the last twelve months.

Councillors considered the benefits and challenges of launching a Neighbourhood Plan Group, to develop a Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan, which was successfully launched last year, and led to well attended public exhibition meetings in May/June. This provided residents with an opportunity to review future plans for the village, in particular SKDC's draft Local Plan through to 2036. It also enabled residents to inform the Group about how they would like to see the village develop over the next 15 - 20 years. The Neighbourhood Plan is a significant undertaking, which requires the commitment of considerable time and effort - and has to involve sufficient residents to enable the project to succeed. I'm pleased that a small group of residents have taken up the challenge, led by Batul Dungarwalla, but that's just the start - additional members are needed to join the Group. This is the ideal opportunity for the Parish Council and residents to help shape future plans, especially as the draft Local Plan envisages new developments delivering an additional 280 houses. This would require the developments to provide significant investment in local infrastructure to support the expansion, including:

- drainage and sewage systems, which are at their limit
- traffic management, as the plans would produce a significant increase in vehicle numbers, requiring solutions to manage access on to, and from the A151
- consideration of retail provision in the village, to ensure that the High Street and Market Place are not choked with unmanageable pressures on parking
- provision of additional open green space
- adequate footpath and cycleway provision
- expansion of primary and secondary school capacities in the village.

Since the sub Post Office in the village closed in 2017, the Parish Council has pursued the objective of getting Corby Glen added to the list of villages served by a mobile Post Office. This was finally achieved, last month, with the mobile van first parked outside the Church Street Rooms on 16th April, and scheduled to visit the village four days a week.

In November, the village marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, with the WW1 Research Group publishing its book on 'The Corby Boys' and delivering its plans for the anniversary, with funding assistance from the Parish Council. The large poppies attached to buildings where servicemen who died in

the war had lived, wreaths for each of the 24 men killed being carried by relatives and servicemen, from St John's Church to the war memorial in a silent procession, and planting poppies around the war memorial, provided an opportunity for residents and relatives to mark the occasion and remember the men, their families and the impact of WW1 on the village. The Group is now working on a grant application to renovate the lettering on the war memorial and the fencing around it, and aiming for the work to be finished in time for the 100th anniversary of the memorial being installed in 1920.

Maintenance has continued around the Village Green, including:

- continued maintenance work to the play equipment
- the annual programme of grass cutting, and strimming.
- community cleaning, carried out in the weekly visit of our community cleaners, who do a splendid job, week in, week out, in keeping the village clear of litter
- installation by LCC of verge markers on Tanner's Lane, to protect the Green and pedestrians
- planting of daffodils and snowdrops on the Green
- footpath clearance last summer by Charles Read Academy students.

During the year, the Council has adopted two village flags, the first of which has been seen flying during the year. The inaugural flying of the second flag, which was designed by Liz Partridge, will take place when the flagpole is relocated as, currently, the walnut tree alongside the flagpole obstructs and damages large flags.

The Council continues to consider all planning applications submitted to SKDC, and seeks to balance the objectives of applicants alongside the wider interests of the village and its residents. I was pleased that we supported the planning applications for Lily's Lavender Hut & The Pantry @ the March Hare.

Financially, our income for the year was £12,545 and our expenditure was £11,377. Our precept was £10,934 - an increase of £77 on last year.

The Parish Council gained agreement from SKDC to increase its number of councillors from seven to nine, with effect from the 2019 parish elections, to reflect the growth in the size of the village. In the lead up to the recent elections, two councillors resigned - Paula Muir and me. Two new councillors have now joined, so we welcome Sara Parker and Jonathan Cook to the Parish Council and look forward to hearing the co-option outcome later this evening for the two vacant seats.

Our Parish Clerk, Sara Parker resigned from her role, and stood for election as a councillor. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Sara for her unstinting dedication to the role, with the challenges which that entails and the patience required to fulfil the job! Can I also thank Paula for her commitment to the role of councillor, especially her input to the play equipment project, which was instrumental to us achieving sufficient grant funding in what was a major project.

Can I also formally record our thanks to Sue Woodman, who has taken over as Parish Clerk from Sara, and has very quickly established herself in the role. I know that your knowledge of Corby Glen will be of great benefit to the Parish Council - and that the Council will receive full coverage in The Link!

I would like to formally record that councillors were saddened to hear of the death of Lis Fox, who had been our Parish Clerk in the early 2000s.

Finally, can I thank my fellow councillors for their input and support over the nineteen years I have been a councillor, and during my time as Chair, and also thank them for the manner in which they conduct the business of the Council.

I invite any observations from our District and County councillors, and ask the Clerk to inform the meeting of any written notices which have been received.

Steve Honeywood