

Tarporley Parish Council

Annual Report

2017 – 2018

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Chairman's Report – Gordon Pearson

Last May, after serving in the Parish Council and as Chairman for many years, Ken Parker retired from the Council and his role as Chairman. After serving as a councillor, I accepted the role of Chairman and the last 12 months have been intense. There is a lot more Parish Council work going on behind the scenes than I imagined. Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and I thank all our Councillors for their time, dedication and commitment over the last year.

Tina Royles was co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill the vacant Councillor position left by Ken. We also employed a new Clerk, Delia Cox, in a job share with Abigail Webb. Having 2 Clerks in job share gives us better cover and continuity for periods of holiday or other changes. This has turned out to be a wise move as Abbie will be on maternity leave from around July. Congratulations Abbie!

Highlights over the last year (with more details later in this report) include....

Development of the ex-RBL site: Tarporley Parish Council are about to exchange contracts for the purchase of the bowling green, remaining allotments and a new car park to replace the previous car park.

Village maintenance and improvements: you will have probably noticed the new benches and notice boards in front of St Helen's plus the re-surfaced Lychgate Lane. We are also in the process of extending the scope of the village maintenance contracts.

Brook Road Outdoor Sports and Recreation Facility: After a protracted period, we now have planning permission for the scheme and approval for the plans to safeguard the neighbouring colony of Great Crested Newts. We can now proceed to implement drainage for the site, levelling the pitch areas and fundraising for construction of pitches.

Christmas Lights: We will not be doing lights on the Chestnut Tree again following the problems experienced over the last 2 years. This year will see a revised event on **Saturday 1st** December. More details to follow.

Lots of Planning Applications: We have reviewed and submitted comments on 66 planning applications over the last year; 38 in the first 4 months of 2018.

Gritting Schemes: CWAC Council do not grit car parks or pavements. The Parish Council re-launched a Community Gritting Scheme last December and anyone in the village is welcome to volunteer to grit the pavements near your home or business next winter. Details are available from the Clerk. We also contracted for gritting the Rising Sun and Community Centre car parks plus pavements along the High Street.

New High St, Eaton Road and Lychgate Lane parking restrictions and parking bays: After several rounds of informal and formal consultations, these have been approved and we are now awaiting implementation by CWAC Council.

Tarporley Remembers: We are delighted to support the Tarporley Remembers 2018 campaign. Emma Hunter and Victoria Williams (who also run Tarporley News) volunteered to devise and manage this year-long series of events and installations. It has been very successful and very well supported and there is much more to come. This has been a tremendous amount of work for them to take on. Thank you, Emma, Victoria and all the sponsors and volunteers who have helped make this happen.

Councillors Contact Details

Cllr Gordon Pearson (Chair)	01829 733 813
Cllr Gill Clough (Vice-Chair)	01829 733 545
Cllr Elaine Chapman	01829 733 972
Cllr Julie Hall	01829 734 078
Cllr Bill Mather	01829 733 628
Cllr John Millington	01829 730 921
Cllr Jeremy Mills	01829 730 898
Cllr Tina Royles	07595 298 895
Cllr Richard Statham	01829 732 940
Cllr Peter Tavernor	01829 732 165
Cllr Nigel Taylor	01829 732 538
Cllr Andrew Wallace	07850 250 641

Council Meeting Dates 2018 – 2019

Monday 14th May 2018

Monday 11th June 2018

Monday 9th July 2018

Monday 10th September 2018

Monday 8th October 2018

Monday 12th November 2018

Monday 10th December 2018

Monday 14th January 2019

Monday 11th February 2019

Monday 11th March 2019

Monday 8th April 2019

All meetings take place in Tarporley Community Centre, Committee Room. Parish Council Surgery starts at 6.30pm and the Parish Council Meeting starts at 7pm.

Summary of Accounts 2017-2018

Tarporley Parish Council

Summary of Accounts 2017-2018

Unaudited

Balance Carried Forward **£111,083**
(from 2016-2017)

Receipts (Money Received)

Precept	71,997
Grants	1,967
Interest & VAT Rebate	5,741
Cemetery	7,380
Community Bus	792
Misc.	120
Total Receipts	£87,997

Note: Some key projects including:
new benches and noticeboards balance, Lychgate Lane
are accounted for in the 2018-2019 financial year.

The Council's reserves are earmarked for:

Brook Road Sports Field

Parking

Other Projects

Email clerk@tarporley.org.uk for more information

Payments Made

Staff costs (Salaries, HMRC, Payroll, Pension)	20,442
Administration incl. subs	5,229
Room hire	1,516
Insurance	1,241
Community Bus	2,550
Cemetery incl. emptying bin	2,335
Village maintenance incl. gritting	9,756
Play area inspections and repairs	3,354
Brook Road sports field development	2,542
Events (Christmas, Carnival, Remembrance Day)	10,343
Benches and Noticeboards deposit	2,357
Former RBL site - Misc. costs	1,645
Grants to Church & Chapel (graveyard)	1,750
Grant to War Memorial Hospital	2,000
Grant to Tarporley Community Centre	2,000
Grants to Groups	2,400
VAT	5,860
Total Payments	£77,320

Balance 2018-2019 **£121,760**

Tarporley Parish Council

2017-2018 Grants Awarded

Meeting date approval	Recipient	Amount
1st Round - Apr 17	Tarporley Community Centre	£2,000
1st Round - Apr 17	Tarporley War Memorial Hospital	£2,000
1st Round - Apr 17	St Helen's Church	£1,000
1st Round - Apr 17	Baptist & Methodist Church	£750
2nd Round - Oct 17	Baptist & Methodist Church-Youth	£250
2nd Round - Oct 17	Tarporley Bowling Club	£250
2nd Round - Oct 17	Decibellas Choir	£250
2nd Round - Oct 17	Mid Cheshire Branch NCT	£150
2nd Round - Oct 17	Tarporley Done Room Pre-school	£250
2nd Round - Oct 17	Tarporley Primary School PTA	£250
2nd Round - Oct 17	Tarporley Tennis Club	£250
2nd Round - Oct 17	Tarporley Remembers 2018	£500
2nd Round - Oct 17	Bellringers, St Helen's Church	£250
		£8,150

Lychgate Lane/ Benches and Notice Boards

During recent months several Parish Council projects have come to fruition – new benches and notice boards have been installed in the High St and Lychgate Lane (a private roadway leading to St Helen's historic Lychgate) has been resurfaced and bollards installed. Installation of these bollards had become necessary to ensure that parked cars can no longer stop cemetery and graveyard contractors, funeral cars and wedding cars gaining access to the Parish Council cemetery, graveyard, and Church. As to the benches, they were specifically designed for the village and the Parish Council took care to choose sustainable European oak as the material for them. The Village notice board has also been especially designed and to fit A4 posters in marked rows.

Brook Road Outdoor Sports Facility

Following a very long process, the planning application for the Brook Road Sports and Recreational Fields's development has now been approved. The reason for the long process was because several ecology surveys and reports were required to ensure that the natural habitat will be protected. The Parish Council are now working with the utilities company to look at different drainage options for the site.

Royal British Legion Site

At last the uncertainty about the future of the Royal British Legion (RBL) site came to an end when at the end of August, the Parish Council signed an s106 agreement between the owner of the former RBL site, (Enlighten Developments Tarporley Ltd) and Cheshire West and Chester Council. It stated that Tarporley Parish Council is to buy 2 parcels of land on that site at a nominal price, while on the remaining land 10 dwellings can be developed. The first parcel of land, covering the front of the site where the former RBL building and part of the original car park was, is to be a public car park with spaces for about 30 vehicles, and made at the expense of the developer. The second parcel includes the existing bowling green and club house and the main section of the allotments. The Parish Council have engaged a solicitor to handle the contracts to acquire the land and a clerk of works to make sure the car park is built to a good standard. During the autumn the allotment holders spent considerable time moving their sheds from the area where the new houses are to be build, re-organising their allotments within the new designated allotment area and generally tidying up the site and its boundaries.

While many residents are disappointed that part of this site is to be developed for housing, it is a great relief that, through its ownership by the Parish Council, a car park, bowling green and 2/3rds of the allotments have been retained for the village.

Cemetery Update

During 2017-2018, there have been 14 burials and interment of ashes at Tarporley Parish Cemetery. The income generated from the cemetery is £7,380 compared to £5,380 for the previous year.

The Parish Council have renewed their contract with SP Landscaping to continue the good work they provide in ensuring that the cemetery and the paddock is well maintained during the summer months. The expenditure for the cemetery is £2,334.96 for 2017-18.

Many thanks to Councillor Tavernor for maintaining and replenishing the shrubs in the Cemetery Garden. In April 2018, a new noticeboard was installed at the entrance of the cemetery to replace the old noticeboard which was starting to rot.

The Cemetery Committee conducted a Health and Safety inspection in March 2018 and concluded that all headstones and memorials are safe, and no other issues were identified other than the uneven path

along the north side of the cemetery where the roots from a nearby tree had cracked the concrete. The Cemetery Committee are in discussions with contractors about the possible relaying of the path in the coming year.

Christmas Event

The Parish Council were pleased to see so many people come to the Christmas Lights event under the Chestnut Tree on 1st December to join in blessing the crib and signing songs.

Many thanks to Decibellas, Tarporley Silver Band and the Primary School Choir for their musical contributions. Father Christmas made an appearance himself although he was a little late as he got stuck in traffic. Overall, the event was a great success and resulted in over £800 of which a donation was made to Tarporley Cottage Hospital.

Sadly, the Christmas Lights on the Chestnut Tree were not as successful and as a result, Tarporley Parish Council have cancelled the contract with the company who supplied and maintained the lights.

A Christmas working group met in March to discuss the Christmas Light event for 2018 and to discuss how to improve the event and the lights within the village. The Council have lots of exciting and new ideas for this coming year and more details will become available throughout the year. You won't want to miss it.

Tarporley Remembers 2018

This year's Tarporley Remembers 2018 events began on Sunday 18th March, with hundreds of people turning out on a bitterly cold day to watch 61 silhouettes - representing the 61 names on the WW1 section of the war memorial - being processed down the High Street into the church. To date, the "There But Not There" procession and installation - which included the sale of special booklets about the men who were lost - has raised nearly £2,000 for Tarporley War Memorial Hospital.

In late May, the project's Memorial Walk will be opened - in the wooded area off the High Street to the side of St Helen's Church. Then on June 22-24th, the Swan and other local venues will host 'Tarp Fest', a food, drink and arts festival, that has 'Tarporley Remembers' as its theme.

Local businesses are being encouraged to purchase a £30 'Tarporley Remembers' window sticker, to help fund the project.