

## **KEEVIL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT – 2016/2017**

The Parish Council was elected in May 2013 and the Councillors will hold office until May this year. The members are as follows:

Chairman	Jerry Wickham
Vice-Chairman	Francis Banfield
Councillors	Andrea Hunter
	Rob Kevan
	Myra Link
	Rodney Meatyard
	Geoff West
Clerk	George Goodwin

### **The Parish**

At the time of writing there are approximately 186 rateable properties and 372 Electors in Keevil Parish. The Parish Precept for 2016/17 was £6,475 and is £6,522 for 2017/18. It should be noted that the Parish Council received, in 2016/2017, grants of £968 from the Melksham Area Board. There were also donations towards the cost of re-equipping the Playing Field and these were received from, the Friends of Keevil School (£575), from Pat Bartholomew (£50) and from the Community Shed (£915). In addition, the Council recovered £382 VAT paid from HMRC.

### **Finances**

Fixed Assets - The Sports Wall and Playing Field Equipment have a replacement value of £46,970. The freehold of the Playing Field itself is not included in this figure. The replacement value of the War memorial is currently estimated at £19,873.

Expenditure in 2016/17 amounted to:

- Administration - £3,235 including Clerk's Salary & Expenses (the Clerk is paid to work 4 hours per week on average) £2,030, Insurance £844, Subscriptions to local authority organisations & registration fees £261, Mapping Software Licence £34 and hire of the Village Hall for meetings £66.
- Other –Expenditure was £5,034 including £2,155 for new Playing Field equipment, £1,318 for Playing Field maintenance & repairs. Donations totaling £460 to the Village Hall, Parish Magazine, Churchyard maintenance, Keevil Neighbourhood Watch Data Protection fees, Royal British Legion, Bobby Van Trust Wiltshire, Wiltshire Music Centre and Wiltshire Portage. A donation was also made to the Keevil Amenities Trust to pay for insurance for the Keevil Community Shed. There were also payments to the Community Shed for materials used in their works (£146), to Wiltshire Council for 50% of the costs of the railings opposite the School (£425), to HMRC for a fine (£290) relating to tax reporting in 2013/14 and fees to the external auditors (£240).

Reserves - £12,276 currently held against additional Playing Field Development, future repairs to the War Memorial, Highway maintenance, a future review/reprint of the Village Design Statement and any development costs for the Keevil Web Site.

## **Activities**

The Council's activities are many and various and mainly consist of prompting other organisations to provide and improve services to the Parish. In 2016/17 typical items were as follows:

### Wiltshire Council (WC)

- Highways maintenance on roads and footpaths in and around the Village.
- Management of the Parish Steward for minor repairs.
- Installation of Safety Hand Rails on the Main Street ramp opposite Keevil School.
- Road drainage repair and improvement.
- Land Drainage Repair & Improvement.
- Drainage Survey & actions to reduce flooding risks.
- Maintenance and repair of footways in the Village.
- Parking problems in and around the Village.
- Providing additional grit bins at key locations in the village and keeping a store of grit for replenishment.
- Maintaining a small store of gel sacks and notices in case of flooding.
- Sharing of a flashing Speed Indicator Sign with adjacent Parish Councils.
- Provision of Wheelie Bin stickers for residents with a message reinforcing the 30 mph limit.
- Planning Applications. There were 14 applications to comment on and many needed meetings of the Keevil P.C. Planning Committee. These were held on site, and in public.
- Rights of Way issues.
- General provision of local services.

### Community Safety

- Liaising with Wiltshire Constabulary about speeding and parking in the Village.
- Crime Prevention.
- Supporting Keevil Neighbourhood Watch.
- David Bouault is our Community Emergency Volunteer (CEV) and he is responsible for maintaining the Emergency Plan for the village.
- John Tucker is our Flood Warden and he has developed a Flood Plan for the village (with the assistance of Paul Lenaerts and Ian Simpson) which forms part of our Emergency Plan.

### Ministry of Defence Estates

- Airfield usage.
- Noise reduction during non-operational use of the Airfield.
- Security Fencing
- Land Drainage issues on the Airfield

### Playing Field (Banfield Recreation Ground)

- Repairs to Play Equipment.
- Improving Safety of Play Equipment.
- Maintenance of the Playing Field.
- Reviewing Play Field use and planning future changes to equipment and usage.
- Annual ROSPA Safety Inspection.

- Improving the footpath from Martins Road to the Playing Field.
- Arranging for the Community Shed to take over the mowing of the Playing Field.

#### Miscellaneous

- Maintenance of the War Memorial.
- Supporting the village web site.
- Making online mapping software available to village organisations.
- Supporting the Defibrillator group.
- Re-siting of the Coronation Bench on the high bank footway in Main Street.
- Reporting on & monitoring the clearance of fly tipping.
- Donations to local organisations.
- Supporting the Keevil Community Shed activities.
- Supporting the roll-out of Superfast Broadband in the village.

#### **Thank You**

I would like to thank all the Councillors and villagers who have helped me in my role as Chairman in 2016/17. In particular, I would like to thank:

- Councillor Banfield for his help and support and who, as the Vice-Chairman, has been able to stand in for me if I was unavailable. He has also carried out minor works on behalf of the PC for which I also thank him.
- Councillor Link who attends the Melksham Area Board and associated meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Councillor West, who is our point of contact with the WC Highways.
- Councillor Kevan who has taken responsibility for Playing Field maintenance and the development of the Playing Field improvement plan.
- Councillors Hunter, Kevan, Link & West and Ginny Sherman for continuing to improve the Playing Field facilities.
- David Bouault who is our Community Emergency Volunteer (CEV).
- John Tucker who is our Flood Warden.
- Paul Lenaerts, the Keevil Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, who is also involved in all of our Flood Prevention and Emergency Planning.
- Ian Simpson who also performs a role as part of our Flood Prevention work
- Jonathon Seed, our WC Councillor who has provided outstanding support and advice.
- Lastly, I would like to put on record the excellent service provided by our Clerk, George Goodwin, who behind the scenes ensures that we promptly and efficiently deal with all matters within our community. In addition, he provides sound advice to all members of this Parish Council and ensures that we remain legally compliant.

Jerry Wickham (Chairman)

April 2017

Copies of the Parish Council Accounts 2016/2017 are available from the Clerk or from the village web site (address below).

Keevil Parish Council documents, including this one, are also available at

<http://www.keevilvillage.btck.co.uk/> .