

SNETTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Review

2017/2018

Office opening hours 10-12 Monday and Thursday

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www.facebook.com/snettishampc

Chairman – Ros Pugh; Vice-Chairman – Mel Billington

Clerk – Simon Bower; Admin Asst – Rachael Edwards

SNETTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL – ACCOUNTS

	2016/17	2017/18
Balance at year start	£105,241	£122,151
Income - precept	£76,460	£77,500
Income - other	£15,181	£39,278
Expenditure - loan	£1,280	nil
Expenditure - staff	£31,476	£35,360
Expenditure - other	£41,975	£104,881
Balance at year end	£122,151	£98,688

Notes:

- *VAT: expenditure includes c.£13,650, with c.£12,330 reclaimed as income.*

Major areas of expense, 2017/18:

Play Equipment	£43,126.72*
Neighbourhood Plan	£6,700.00*
Printer	£5,663.22*
Mem Hall Donation	£5,000.00
Grass Cutting/Trees	£4,099.98
TROD	£4,000.00
Street Lights	£2,843.71
Bins (incl dog bins)	£2,806.65
Bus Stop roof	£1,808.00
Shelduck fencing	£1,535.95
Insurance	£1,010.67
Scouts Donation	£1,000.00

NB: These figures have been agreed by Council and our Internal Auditor, and are currently with the External Auditor.

**£14,030 for Play Equipment and £5,250 for N Plan were received in grants; c.£3,420 of the printer expenses was reclaimed from local groups etc. for their use, and from overpayments.*

COUNCILLOR NEWS

We would like to thank former members John Bailey, Diane Westwood and David Lamplugh who have left Council in the last twelve months. All of them had taken an active part as councillors, as well as making significant contributions to the Village elsewhere, which they continue to do. We wish them well. We also send our thanks and best wishes to former Borough Councillor Avril Wright.

We welcomed Gerry Byrne on to Council in December. He has already played a major role in recent planning issues. There are currently four vacancies, and I would encourage anyone who wishes to have a say in the future of the Village to contact us for more details. It is an important role, and a satisfying one.

CLERK'S NOTES

As I write, the **Neighbourhood Plan** is with the external Inspector, following its recent final consultation. He will assess it to ensure it meets all legal requirements. There may be one or two slight changes, but nothing substantive. The only remaining step is the referendum in which all Village electors may vote – a simple majority ensures the Plan becomes part of local planning law. I would urge you all to look out for information in the coming months and be ready to vote; we will be holding further meetings where you can view the Plan before the referendum, which we expect to take place in (early) Autumn.

Planning has been an important part of Council's work in recent months. As you know, decisions are not taken here, but we consider all applications and give our views forcefully. Balancing development with the needs of the Village is sometimes a delicate task – we believe the Neighbourhood Plan does this, and a large vote in its support would make a considerable difference to your power to see Snettisham remain the place you love.

We try to keep informed about what Villagers want, and have held Open Days and Councillor Surgeries to this end. Unfortunately, the interest has not made it worthwhile to continue with these. You can of course still **contact** us in person, by phone or letter, or on facebook or via the website. You are, of course, always welcome at our meetings – information is posted online and on the Office notice board. A lot of information can be sent easily by social media, and I pass on much from the Borough and other organisations. We are happy similarly to help Village groups keep people informed of their activities.

We continue to try and make the **Village** look attractive; you will have seen new, safer, fencing installed at Lodge Walk, the bus shelter has been painted, and signage and notice boards will be improved over the Summer. The Village sign opposite Newbridge will be painted soon, and the County Council listened to our repeated requests for something to be done to improve Southgate Lane. We are working with them to keep the footpath next to the Ingol in good repair, including the bridge, which will be repaired or replaced. We have also made substantial grants to the Scouts and Memorial Hall this year.

We have set up a **Project Development** Group to look at how we can improve things on a larger scale over the next few years. This will look at parking, the Village Centre, and working with the Memorial Hall on wider facilities. I have written about this in the main TORC magazine.

On Beach Road, the new **TROD** has made walking to the sea from the Village much safer. We have budgeted £6,000 for an extension to this, again in partnership with NCC, as far as the houses near Jimmy's Field. We are about to get information on a proposed circular path from the beach to the woods, and will keep you informed.

There was a wonderful meeting in September last year dealing with local wildlife, geology etc., particularly in relation to the **Common**; the Village is a most impressive place in terms of its natural history. Following this, a volunteer group was set up to help at the Common, and they have been very active; their main focus has been on defending the heathland from invasive trees, and supporting the diversity of wildlife. We thank them!

We continue to address **issues** for parishioners on matters which are the responsibility of Borough or County Councils (e.g. potholes, footpaths, hedges etc). While I am happy to help, particularly for those who are not so web-savvy or are disabled, it is often best to report them directly – you have the advantage of updates on progress, and the chance to chase things more easily. There is a list of who is responsible for what on the website.

1918 has been much in our thoughts, and we have been hailed nationally as an example of how to commemorate the centenary of the end of **World War I**. There was a moving launch of the year in February, which was very well-attended, and which generated much press coverage. Our two local graves were marked with letters and floral tributes. This is being done at all 45 graves – Ros Pugh, Stuart Dark and Revd Veronica Wilson are just back from an emotional trip to Canada. There is more information in the main body of the newsletter, online at snettisham-remembers.co.uk, and there will be much more in the Autumn TORC as we approach 11th November.

Villagers were obviously concerned by the closure of the **Post Office**. This was sudden, and Council had no advance notice or consultation; we would encourage local businesses to consider taking on the role if they are able, but this has to be a commercial decision. In the end, such facilities can only continue if there is a guaranteed customer base.

I should formally welcome Rachael, our new Admin Assistant, who is taking on the role of organising the **Village fete**. It will run from 12-5 on Saturday 21st July. I encourage all of you to attend what should be a great day – further information in the TORC.

I will conclude, if you will excuse me, with a little moan! Village life is about community. We all need to have some input into that; at the moment fewer and fewer people are doing more of the work, and, being honest, they are aging. There are over 2,500 people in Snettisham, and if each one gave an hour a month to a group, imagine what could be done. Why not start by offering an hour to the fete? – there are many straightforward but useful things to be done, even simply giving those there all day a tea break makes a huge difference. Alternatively, how about delivering the TORC? – three times a year – or I could put you in touch with other groups who would appreciate help. As a well-known supermarket says "every little helps!" In the end events only happen because people make them happen... Lecture over.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a really good Summer.
Simon