



CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/7

The parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith covers a large area, split into four wards; Chapel East, Chapel West, Combs & Whitehough and Dove Holes, Sparrowpit & Martinside. Three councillors represent Chapel East, six Chapel West, two Combs & Whitehough and two the Doves Holes ward. There are currently two vacancies in Chapel East Ward and one vacancy in Chapel West Ward. The Council meets in the Town Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Meetings are open to the press and public and residents are able to address the Council during the agenda item "Open Forum" about any issues of concern.

Clerk of the Council

The Clerk is Mrs Suzan Stockdale; she is assisted by the Administrative Assistant, Ms Emma Shiels.

The Parish Office is within the Town Hall and is open to the public between 9.00am and 12.30pm each weekday morning to provide information, advice and to deal with queries.

Tel: 01298 813320

Email -The Clerk: clerk@chapelpc.org

Email: Admin. Assistant: astclerk@chapelpc.org

Website: www.chapelpc.org

The Clerk is the Line Manager for the Town Hall and Park staff, the Council having a total staffing establishment of eight.

Chaplain

A Chaplain is appointed each year and leads the Council in prayers at the start of each Council meeting and takes part in several ceremonies during the year.

Ward Members

Contact details are on the website, on a leaflet available from the Parish Office as well as contact details being published in the Newsletter.

Planning Applications

All planning applications for the parish are considered by the Council at the meetings of the Planning Committee and relevant comments and recommendations are made to Development Control at High Peak Borough Council and the Peak District National

Park Authority. Members of the public are also able to view all applications in the Parish Council Office during weekday mornings from 9am to 12.30pm.

Dates of the Planning Committee meetings are listed on the website and Town Hall Notice Board and the public may attend and speak at the meetings.

Committees

In addition to the Planning Committee, which all members can attend, though some do disbar themselves by reason of being High Peak Borough Councillors or having a personal or pecuniary interest, there are the following Committees:

- Financial & General Purposes
- Amenities
- Town Hall
- Health & Safety
- Personnel
- Disciplinary
- Communications
- Regeneration Working Group
- Economic Regeneration Working Group
- Community Awards Committee
- Website Committee

Councillors are also represented on very many other local bodies including Safer Neighbourhood, High Peak and Hope Valley Rail Transport, Chapel Leisure Centre and local Charities.

Precept, Income and Expenditure

The income for the year 2016/17 amounted to £220,880 and the expenditure was £221,584.

The Precept for 2016/17 was £106,208. The Council received a Council Tax Support Grant of £10,102.

This amounted to a 0% increase for the seventh consecutive year.

The yearly accounts are available, from the Parish Office and website, once they have been approved by the External Auditor.

Grants and Donations

The Council gave grants and donations during 2016/17 to local organisations totalling £1,684 during the year.

Police

Police Officers no longer attend Full Council Meetings. The Council works in partnership with the local Police Inspector and Sergeant together with representation at Safer Neighbourhood Meetings.

The Police and Crime Commissioner visited in April 2017.

Property

The Council owns the Town Hall.

The Council also owns 47/49 Market Street, adjacent to the Town hall which is currently leased to a Newsagent. The Council will be undertaking a refurbishment of the premises which will include re-wiring and installing central heating and a new bathroom.

The Council also leases to the County Council the area occupied by the Library and Registrar.

The Parish Council owns and manages the Memorial Park, Needham Recreation Ground, Chapel-en-le-Frith War Memorial, Dove Holes Recreation Ground and War Memorial and Nanny's Well. The buildings and bowling green used by the Bowling club are owned by the Council.

Carnival events, Easter Egg Hunt, with Friends of the Memorial Park and other events have taken place in the Memorial Park throughout the year.

There is also a football pitch, which the Junior Football Club occasionally play some matches on, children's play area with rides and swings, MUGA as well as quiet areas and seats provided in the Memorial Park.

The second phase of the new play equipment in the Memorial Park is currently being installed and funded by the S106 agreement in respect of the Octavia Gardens development.

There is children's play equipment at Needham Recreation Ground together with an informal football pitch.

The Council maintains and insures the play equipment in Dove Holes.

The Council has worked in partnership with Combs Village Hall Trust to provide play equipment on a site adjacent to the Village Hall and has undertaken work to improve the drainage of the site.

Other Services

The Council provides many seats around the Parish as well as in the Memorial Park, many of these donated by residents in memory of loved ones for which the Council is very grateful.

The 'Tourist Information' point , adjacent to the Parish Council Office has proved very successful, displaying leaflets from all over the area and further away. The leaflets are accessible even when the Parish office is closed, whilst the Library is open. The Town Trail, local walk leaflets and Parish Council Newsletters are available from these racks.

The Council produces an A4 quarterly newsletter, with photographs, which is distributed to various outlets in the parish and the majority of homes in the Parish. Newsletters are placed on each Parish notice board in the outlying villages to keep the community informed about council activities, news and contact information.

There are 5 tourist information signs at the entrances to Chapel-en-le-Frith.

The Council has public notice boards in Chapel-en-le-Frith, Dove Holes, Sparrowpit, Combs and Whitehough, where the Newsletter and other information are displayed.

The Council plants and maintains the area around the well at Whitehough adjacent to the Notice Board.

Bus Shelters

The Council provides 2 bus shelters in the Parish. Monthly cleaning amounts to £215 per year.

Hanging Baskets and Tubs

Hanging baskets on the Town Hall frontage and 25 flower tubs are provided in and around Chapel-en-le-Frith to enhance the area. Parks and Recreation Ground maintenance, including the cost of planting the hanging baskets and tubs, costs the Council in the region of £500 each year.

Cemex Quarry in Dove Holes have sponsored the hanging baskets along the A6 in Dove Holes at a cost of £2,500.

Town Hall

The Town Hall on Market Street is managed by the Council and provides facilities for the benefit of the whole community. Rooms can be hired for meetings, functions, children's parties, classes, etc. Disabled access doors and a lift are provided.

Derbyshire County Council operates the Library and Registrars Office on the ground floor.

The Parish Office is situated on the ground floor and has recently been refurbished together with the toilets and kitchens.

Allotments

The Council leases and provides sites at Chapel-en-le-Frith and Dove Holes and runs an annual competition with awards for the best kept allotment at each site.

Parish Council Website

The website may be viewed at www.chapelpc.org and provides details about the Council, Living, Working and Visiting the Parish.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is held in April each year and all residents are encouraged to take part, an Agenda and Chairman's report is placed on the website and on the Parish Notice Boards.

Chapel High School and Leisure Centre

The Parish Council make a contribution towards the Leisure Centre to keep charges affordable. The contribution in 2016/17 was £5,761.

Regeneration

The Parish Council works with local organisations and businesses to maintain and improve the vitality and viability of Chapel-en-le-Frith, protecting the environment and ensuring future prosperity.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chapel-en-le-Frith Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in July 2015.

There have been two Planning Appeals in the year which the Council has been a party to and successfully defended the Neighbourhood Plan in respect of an applications on Long Lane, Chapel-en-le-Frith and at Tunstead Milton.

Community Plan

The footpath working group are currently looking at projects in respect of the Warmbrook Trail and Peak Forest Tramway.

Chapel Carnival

Council Members take an active part in judging the Floats and the procession is led by the Chairman, through the Town to Chapel High School, where the Carnival Queens are presented and the current Chapel Carnival Queen is crowned.

Well Dressing

The Council supported the Well Dressings in the Town in early July and several Councillors have taken an active part in this tradition, which is appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

Winter Grit Bins

The Council operates a scheme to provide grit bins in areas where the County Council do not provide a regular gritting service and access during bad weather conditions and the bins are filled once each year by the Council. The Council

provides 6 bins throughout the parish. This service is to maintain access to roads and footways and not for the use of individual residents. The Council has appointed a local Snow Warden in association with the Derbyshire County Council scheme.

Christmas Trees

The Council provides Christmas trees for Chapel-en-le-Frith, Dove Holes, Combs, Sparrowpit and Whitehough at a cost of £2,500. New lights were purchased for the Christmas trees in Combs and Whitehough at a cost of £1,430.