



PURTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

PURTON PARISH COUNCILS MISSION STATEMENT

AIMS to achieve the mission we will :-

- Engage in open dialogue with all residents to understand their needs, and in turn explain how we will address these needs within the resources and powers available to the Council
- To help provide cost effective amenities of a high standard to help meet the needs and wishes of all residents
- Assist and encourage other bodies to provide such amenities
- Protect and enhance the environment in which the residents of the Parish live and work
- Promote the best interests of the Parish

OBJECTIVES

- To help create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all residents, irrespective of age, gender, culture, income, race or religion, and will seek to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation
- To enable residents to enjoy high quality social, recreational and sporting facilities within the Parish, and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents
- To encourage and promote the economic and commercial viability of the Parish. This will assist in improving the levels of deprivation experienced by some residents of the Parish.
- To protect and improve the character of the Parish and promote sustainable development for the Parish to meet the needs of present residents without jeopardizing the needs of future generations
- To work in partnership with other statutory bodies, voluntary groups, agencies and individuals to ensure an improving standard of services to meet the needs of the Parish

VALUES

Purton Parish Council will provide a high quality service and will be professional, accountable, proactive and responsive, inclusive and transparent.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

This year we have had to cancel the Annual Parish Assembly due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and all at Parish Council wish you to remain safe and trust the situation will soon be resolved.

The year had perhaps been the most difficult since I became Chair, in late 2019 my good friend and long-standing Councillor Mrs. Susan Matthews died suddenly after a very short illness, I was with her, and her husband, Tony, when she passed away and it makes you realise how fragile life is and brings into stark reality how trivial some of the issues Council face really are.

This situation meant we had one space and we welcome Shawn Hindon to Council, Shawn has a wealth of experience in planning and building design so I am sure his contribution will be valuable in the future. With regret Vicky Mckerrow has resigned from Council, she has made valuable contributions to Council and we wish her well, spending more time with her family and her thanks for her time on Council, this means we have a vacancy and if you might be interested please contact the Clerk, Deborah Lawrence, for more details.

We have tried to progress all the things outlined in last year's report, we are still looking at speeding issues within the Village, and the eternal problem of Cross Lanes junction and the chaos that can ensue during busy periods. We have been working with Wiltshire Council and a full traffic survey has been carried out by independent specialist at a cost of several thousand pounds, this cost being born by Wiltshire Council and the CATG Group, we are grateful for their support and hopefully a resolution can be found in the not too distant future. Speeding is still a perceived issue in Station Road and Restrop Road, we have budgeted for movable Speed Indicator Devices during 2020/2021. These will be installed as soon as we are able but, obviously we do not yet know when this will be.

It was mentioned last year that land had been purchased for a Cemetery extension, this has moved on after initial testing and we will be pushing forward with full Planning permission during the next twelve-eighteen months, we will keep everyone informed as this progresses.

We reported last year that we were looking at developing the old Youth Club site for new Council Offices, as we do not own another building, this has currently been put on hold for reasons of planning and other options possibly becoming available in what is a fluid situation, again we will keep you informed, the budgets are in place but it may not be the right thing to do at this time.

Last year's precept rise was not repeated this year and the rise was in line with R.P.I but it still leaves the Council in a secure financial position, this could of course be eroded due to COVID-19 but we will have to re-assess when we have a clearer idea of the impact on Council budgets.

We are looking at changes to Cross Lanes Junction, Speed Indicator Devices in the Village and an enhanced crossing point at the Red House to enable people to park there and walk to Schools rather than drive in The Peak and Reids Piece, we are hoping this work will be able to proceed in the near future but there is still a lot of work to do. The Co-op is now open and there was a proposal to change the layout in Lower Square, this was delayed to assess how the deliveries were working but it may be re-visited in the future if problems are perceived.

This year there were awards to be issued for volunteers, due to be handed out at the meeting, this, I am sure, will be dealt with when things return to normal.

During this period of uncertainty Council staff are working from home where possible, but all urgent functions will be covered, please bear with us during this difficult time we are all trying to handle a situation that is new to us all.

I would like to thank Councillors and Staff for their continued dedication and hard work throughout the year but especially now in difficult times, decisions still need to be made, situations occur, it does not stop because of COVID 19.

Keep Safe and please act as a community and keep a watchful eye on neighbours and vulnerable people, you could be their lifeline.

Chairman of Council Ray Thomas

CLERKS REPORT

An unusual start to our year especially with the COVID-19 pandemic that our country and community is facing. Staffing is now limited to home working where feasible and no contact with members of the public through our roles.

Our latest budgeted administration project this coming year is the new website redesign and layout. The new website will allow an easier route of information finding and ease of access for all abilities inline with changing legislation coming into effect later this year. We are looking forward to a fresh approach to how we communicate working in parallel with FaceBook, Twitter, noticeboards and the community magazine.

We are working through a transition period 2020-2021 where our long serving Charites Secretary, Mrs Teresa Hartshorn, will be retiring in January 2021 after 25 years and the role will be taken over by our Deputy Clerk, Mrs Stephanie Halpin.

It is very hard to hand over 25 years of experience in a year, however the Charities are managed extremely well with expert guidance from not only our Solicitor but the Charity Commission who keep the Charities “street legal” we will continue the good work.

Once Teresa has retired, Stefanie will take up a full time role spreading her time predominately in the continue administration of the Councils H&S, Play Areas and the three Charities with support to the Clerk on any new projects or roles that arises. I would like to thank Teresa for her hard work, dedication and expertise in this field. When she retires, she will leave a legacy that we will continue to uphold, doing what is right for the charity first and foremost which is what Teresa has always advised.

2020 Projects are keeping the staff busy, although the COVID-19 will delay some aspects. The work being carried out by the Grounds staff support a new and progressive approach to repairs and work required, using less of outside contractors (unless specialised) and therefore keeping costs within a tight budget.

The training and enhancement of skills by the staff is every changing, with not only legislation dictating its need, but changes in environment and skill sets necessitating new training and qualifications which are assessed annually. All staff undertake and attend professional seminars within their roles and we are always on the hunt for ways to improve service, administration and workable solutions.

Staffing Committee Chairman – Councillor Paul Grigg

I would like to say that the staff have performed well this year under the Clerks leadership and the stronger, clearer route to communication via the Clerk in all instances. Staff are working well with less confusion and confrontation occurring this way.

I'd also like to add congratulations to Stefanie for stepping into her new role and a congratulatory note to Teresa for all the hard work she has done over the years now she is in her final year before retiring.

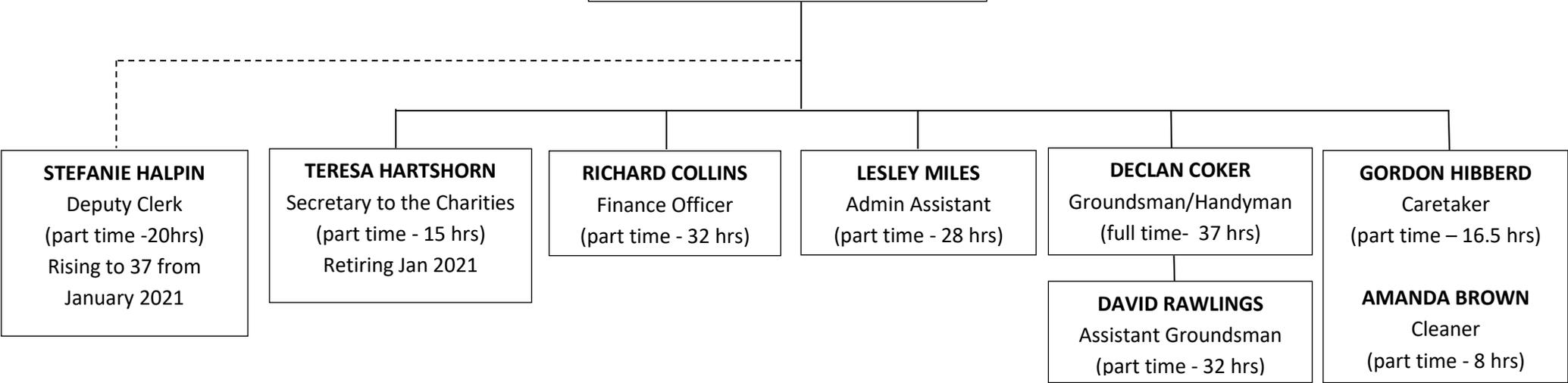
Deborah Lawrence, Clerk

	<p>DEBORAH LAWRENCE Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer Responsible for the management, services and administration of the Council including staff and professional advice to the Council. Hours of Work : Monday to Thursday 9-5pm, Friday 9-4.00pm Tel : 01793 771066 Email : deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>STEFANIE HALPIN Deputy Clerk Primary administration of Health and Safety, Play Area committee and support to the Clerk. From January 2020 – Dec 2020 Charities on a part time basis Hours of Work : Tuesday – Friday 9am-2pm Tel : 01793 772765 Email : stefanie.halpin@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
<p>NO IMAGE</p>	<p>TERESA HARTSHORN Charities Secretary, Administration of three Charities Hours of work : Monday and Wednesday 9.30-5.30pm Tel : 01793 771824 Email: teresa.hartshorn@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>RICHARD COLLINS Finance Officer, Financial administration of the Council and Charities accounts including budgeting, income and expenditure and auditing regulations. Hours of work : Monday – Thursday 9.30am - 5.00pm Tel: 01793 770345 Email: richard.collins@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>LESLEY MILES Administrative Assistant Administration support to the Clerk. Main areas :-Footpaths, Open Spaces and Planning and Bookings for hall hire. Hours of work : Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8.45am-2.15pm, Wednesday 8.45-4.15pm, Friday 8.45am – 3.15pm Tel: 01793 772646 Email: lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>DECLAN COKER Grounds man/Handy man Responsible for all outside space maintenance including play areas, cemetery and handyman duties for all buildings. Hours of work : Monday- Thursday 8am – 4pm, Friday 8am – 3.30pm Contact via Parish Council Offices, Email : declan.coker@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>DAVID RAWLINGS Part time grounds man Open space maintenance in support of full-time grounds man Hours of work : Monday-Thursday 8-3.30pm, Fridays 8 – 12.15pm Contact via the Parish Council Offices</p>
	<p>GORDON HIBBERD Caretaker – Village hall Cleaning and general maintenance of the Village Hall and Public Toilets. Hours of work : Monday-Friday (early morning) 16.5 hours per week</p>
	<p>AMANDA BROWN Cleaner – Millennium Hall Cleaner for the Village Centre, Millennium Hall, Changing facilities, Bowls Club out of season and associated buildings. Hours : 8 hours per week, Contact via the Council Offices</p>

PURTON PARISH COUNCIL ORGANISATION CHART 2019-2020



DEBORAH A LAWRENCE
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
(full time - 37 hrs)



MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS 2019-2020

	<p>RAY THOMAS Chair of Council, Finance and General Purposes and Chair of three charities Home address : The Bungalow, Hooks Hill Contact Tel : 01793 951520 Email contact : ray.thomas@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>NEIL HOOPER Vice Chair of Council, Chair of Burials Home address : 15 Station Road Contact Tel : Via Council office Email contact : neil.hooper@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>GEOFF GREENAWAY Home address : 44 The Hyde Contact Tel : 01793 771140 Email contact : geoff.greenaway@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>PAUL GRIGG Chair of Staffing Home address : 12 Ringsbury Close Contact Tel : Via Council Office Email : paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>HELEN HICKS Home address : 11 New Road Contact Tel : 01793 778207 Email contact : helen.hicks@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>SHAWN HINDON Home address : walnut view, 84a Pavenill, Purton Contact Tel : 07734 943212 Email : shawn.hindon@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>JULIE ANN HURWOOD Home address : Fieldview Cottage, 39a Witts Lane Contact Tel : Via Council office Email : julianne.hurwood@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>KEVIN LAW Home address : Setter House, Church Street Contact Tel : 07768 456989 Email contact : kevin.law@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>

	<p>SUSAN RELFE Chair of Recreation Home address : 19 Willowbrook Contact Tel : 01793 770309 Email contact : susan.relfe@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>JIM REID Home address : 1 Crillo Place, Purton Contact tel : contact via office Email : jim.reid@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>EMILY SEABROOK Home address : 17 Cowleaze, Purton Contact tel : contact via office Email : emily.seabrook@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>CHARLOTTE YOUNG Home address : 25 Waite Meads close, Purton Contact tel : contact via office Email : charlotte.young@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
	<p>GRANT SEABROOK Home address : 17 Cowleaze, Purton Tel : contact via office Email : grant.seabrook@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>
<p>VACANCY</p>	

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE as at March 2020

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES (9)			
Chairman	Ray Thomas	Vice Chair	Jim Reid
Geoff Greenaway	Paul Grigg	Neil Hooper	Gavin James
Jim Reid	Sue Relfe	Emily Seabrook	Grant Seabrook
Ray Thomas			
BURIALS and CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (5)			
Chairman	Neil Hooper	Vice Chair	Susan Relfe
Geoff Greenaway	Helen Hicks	Neil Hooper	Sue Relfe
Ray Thomas			
STAFFING COMMITTEE (4)			
Chairman	Paul Grigg	Vice Chair	Jim Reid
Neil Hooper	Paul Grigg	Jim Reid	Susan Relfe
PLAY AREAS/RECREATION (4)			
Chairman	Susan Relfe	Vice Chair	Vacancy
Neil Hooper	Helen Hicks	Sue Relfe	Ray Thomas
CHARITIES COMMITTEE (14)			
Chairman	Ray Thomas	Vice Chair	Neil Hooper
Geoff Greenaway	Paul Grigg	Helen Hicks	Shawn Hindon
Neil Hooper	Julie Ann Hurwood	Gavin James	Kevin Law
Jim Reid	Susan Relfe	Emily Seabrook	Grant Seabrook
Ray Thomas	Charlotte Young		
DISCIPLINARY/GRIEVANCE PANEL (2)			
Ray Thomas	Jim Reid		
APPEALS PANEL (2)			
Kevin Law	Neil Hooper		
REPRESENTING BODIES			
Health and Safety	Paul Grigg		
Public Transport	The Clerk		
Police Tasking Group	Ray Thomas		
Area Board	Ray Thomas		
CATG	Ray Thomas		
Schools Liaison	The Clerk		
Youth	Councillor Paul Grigg/Clerk		
Hills Liaison Meetings	The Clerk/Appropriate staff member		
Operational Flood working Group (OFWG)	Julie Ann Hurwood (in her absence the Deputy Clerk)		
Dementia Community	Vacancy		

COMMITTEE NAME	NO OF MTGS HELD APR 19-MAR20
Finance and General Purposes	3
Staff Sub Committee	3
Burials	3
Play/recreation Area	3
Village Hall and Institute Buildings Village Centre and War Memorial } Play Close Charity	13
Full Council including Annual Parish Meeting	11
COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS	NO OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Geoff Greenaway	10
Paul Grigg	9
Helen Hicks	11
Shawn Hindon (joined January 2020)	2
Neil Hooper	10
Julie Ann Hurwood	6
Kevin Law	7
Susan Matthews (deceased October 2019)	7
Vicky McKerrow Resigned March 2020	9
Jim Reid	12
Susan Relfe	12
Emily Seabrook	7
Grant Seabrook	7
Ray Thomas	12
Charlotte Young (joined February 2020)	2

FINANCE

The Purton Parish Council budget is prepared by the Finance Committee using information that each Committee submits. Suggested items are reviewed during a series of budget preparation meetings, and those that meet with approval and are able to be funded are included in the agreed budget, before being presented to Council for approval.

Actual/budgeted expenditure includes: -

2019/20

- Repairs to Churchyard perimeter wall;
- Funding towards highways/road safety schemes;
- Significant tree maintenance within the Parish;
- Increased ongoing provision for grants & donations;
- CCTV installed at the Village Hall;
- Automatic winding mechanism for Institute building clock;

2020/21

- Continuing work to transform Long Ground to burial land, if suitable;
- Improvements to entrance signposting to the village;
- Speed indicator devices for use in the village;
- Development of new Parish Council office and workshop;
- Funding towards highways/road safety schemes;
- Improvements to Parish Council website;

Actual/budgeted income includes:-

2019/20

Precept from Wiltshire Council - see below;
Burial fees;
CIL monies;
Funding from Reserves;

Precept
£299,417

Equivalent Band D properties
2,437.65

Precept per Band D property pa
£122.83

2020/21

Precept from Wiltshire Council - see below;
Burial fees;
CIL monies;

Precept
£311,816

Equivalent Band D properties
2,474.34

Precept per Band D property pa
£126.02

The increase in Precept per Band D property in 2019/20 is 2.6%.

The Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019 received a clean bill of health from the external auditors PKF Littlejohn, as did internal audits carried out by Auditing Solutions Ltd.

The Parish Council publishes details of individual items of expenditure exceeding £500 on its website on a quarterly basis. Electors and other interested persons may inspect the Parish Council's accounting statements and records during advertised times, following completion of the annual accounts.

INCOME

Precept
S106 & CIL contributions
Burial fees
Rents
receivable
Bank interest
Sales & hiring income

EXPENDITURE

Salaries
Utilities
Insurance
Professional fees
Hire and rental
Health and safety
Subscriptions
Administration
Grants and donations
Maintenance
Capital

TOTAL INCOME
TOTAL
EXPENDITURE

General Reserve balance

Balance at start of year
Increase/(Decrease) during year
Transfers from General to Specific Reserves
Transfers to General from Specific Reserves

Balance at year end**Total Reserve balance**

Designated Reserves
Restricted Reserves
General
Reserve

Balance at year end

	BUDGET	FORECAST	BUDGET	Burial	ROW & Spaces	Play Areas	Planning	Council
	£299,417	£299,417	£311,816					£311,816
	£6,886	£38,927	£0					
	£7,933	£5,800	£8,139	£8,139				
	£877	£875	£896					£896
	£2,067	£3,067	£2,484					£2,484
	£70	£200	£70		£50			£20
	£133,470	£133,958	£135,653	£17,702	£13,416	£9,932	£8,486	£86,117
	£14,222	£5,173	£14,804	£583				£14,221
	£2,542	£3,353	£3,487	£15	£401	£538	£205	£2,327
	£4,227	£4,169	£4,257					£4,257
	£13,571	£12,038	£15,522					£15,522
	£2,489	£2,488	£2,536	£971		£349		£1,216
	£1,808	£1,811	£1,861				£85	£1,776
	£17,128	£15,643	£25,964		£50		£60	£25,854
	£35,490	£25,360	£41,740	£630				£41,110
	£25,823	£26,183	£60,110	£41,913	£2,144	£8,511	£643	£6,899
	£133,568	£22,166	£83,759					£83,759
	£317,250	£348,286	£323,406	£8,139	£50	£0	£0	£315,217
	£384,337	£252,340	£389,691	£61,813	£16,012	£19,330	£9,479	£283,057
	£163,569	£163,569	£229,938					
	-£67,087	£95,946	-£66,286					
	-£14,226	-£47,267	-£15,640					
	£22,000	£17,690	£0					
	£104,256	£229,938	£148,012					
		£87,856	£103,496					
		£72,405	£72,405					
		£229,938	£148,012					
		£390,199	£323,913					

RIGHTS OF WAY AND OPEN SPACES

Footpaths in Purton

We would like to start with a huge thank you to our brilliant footpath teams who work tirelessly during the drier months to keep the footpaths in Purton open and usable. Without their support many would be closed as the resources are not available via Wiltshire Council to aid this process.

The footpath network in Purton does not fall under the remit or responsibility of the Parish Council, but Wiltshire Council; however we have been fortunate to work with an amazing group of people giving financial and practical support to aid the ongoing maintenance of the footpath network.

If any member of the community notices a footpath diversion, difficulty passing/blocked access or unsure of any work being carried out effecting the route, please drop an email to our offices or call. We will always do our best with the footpath teams to answer your queries and resolve issues.

This year the footpath team have attended a chainsaw course giving another string to their bow, paid under the Grant Scheme of the Purton Parish Council. Keep up the good work.

Due to the COVID-19 our teams are in lockdown until further notice. No works will be carried out until further notice.

The Dingle

Sadly, our recent tree survey highlighted The Dingle as having “Ash DieBack” which is sweeping the nation. We estimate we will loose 65-85% of our trees. There is a programme of works being drawn up to counteract this once we have cleared the trees and can see what we have left to manage. A programme of planting will be devised with an offer of support and help from the community.

The Cricket Club

The grounds continue to operate under the management of the Purton Cricket Club. This area is managed and kept extremely well by the group and we thank them for their ongoing care and attention.

Harvest Water

This area continues to be frequented by a few ducks even though it is not a duck pond ! The team regularly manage and clear with the support of a local resident the area.

Harold Waldron’s Wall

This stretch of land continues to be maintained by the team and has this year received some minor tree surgery works.

The Paddock

An extremely successful year with the use of this stretch of land by the Pre-School Groups. Bug hunting, songs around a pretend campfire, collecting of leaves to make hats and many more outside activities have seen an unused piece of land utilised to its full advantage within our community. We hope next year will bring the same.

Deborah Lawrence, Clerk

BURIALS COMMITTEE

Remit of Committee

Chairman of Committee – Councillor Neil Hooper

6 committee members, meeting four times a year

The Burial Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the Churchyard and the operation and maintenance of the Cemetery.

Churchyard

The Council continues to maintain the churchyard in respect of grass cutting, pathways, boundary wall, trees and what is known as the Lychgate. It does not have a duty to maintain graves but does have a duty to ensure that such items as headstones/grave spaces are safe.

Works have started in preparation to resurface the pathway leading from the southern entrance of the Church to the Lychgate. Test holes have been dug by the ground staff and aggregates have been laid to see what works best. The existing stone path is made up of many different materials, laid and compacted over a number of years; we hope soon to find the right mix.

As in previous years cutting of the grass and general tidying has been carried out by offenders as part of their Community Service under the Community Payback Scheme. There is a charge for this service and Council pay in the region of £500.00 for the visits from the group throughout the year which still represents a good value for money service and keeps the churchyard well tended.

Cemetery

Health and Safety checks on headstones have been completed by Council staff. All the general maintenance of the Cemetery as a whole including the removal of wilted flowers and wreaths after a specified period of time is also carried out by the grounds staff.

Memorial testing is still on going and the majority of grave owners have been contacted however we have needed to dig in a few headstones. If you see a headstone that had been banded and marked and you have contact details, please let the office know.

Reduction of the hedge height around the cemetery and removal of some of the shrubs and trees along church path has now been completed. This has been done to aid maintenance and to tidy the area. There has also been tree work to the wooded area to the road side in line with council policy.

The wooded area at the entrance was made ready for placement of small memorial stones last year and more have been installed this year.

The older cremated remains section that was attended to back in 2018 has taken really well and continues to look very fresh. As some understand, sometimes it takes a while for landscape works to weather and blend with their surroundings.

The 'Long Ground'

Following the purchase of the land there has been survey work carried out and we have the results back. As expected they conclude the land is suitable for its intended purpose of burial plots, cremated remains, gardens and areas for the memorials.

The next stage is to move to a formal planning process and we are working with a specialist cemetery planning company to manage this. We did intend to get this started in April but the current situation has slowed this down.

As always thanks go out to the ground staff for great job they do maintaining the Cemetery to a high standard and to the office staff in their dealing with the sensitive issues that arise in relation to interments and other aspects associated with the operation of the Cemetery.

As I write this we are facing into the Covid-19 situation and expect rules to change around attendance at funerals and other mandated regulations. We as a Council are committed and allowed to keep the cemetery services running throughout this period and will communicate changes as they happen via the usual channels.

Councillor Neil Hooper, Chairman of Burial

PLAY AREA COMMITTEE

Remit of Committee

Chairman Cllr Sue Relfe - Meeting 4 times a year

The Play Close

This area continues to be well used and all equipment is in good working order. The repairs that were required during the last year were for general wear and tear only.

Village Centre

The play area and skate park continue to be well used and the equipment is holding up well. Also the football pitch is extremely well used.

The presence of CCTV has helped to keep the amount of vandalism to a minimum.

Venture Play Area – Dogridge

The plans to refurbish this area have been put on hold for the foreseeable future. Regrettably we had to close the play area following the erection of fencing when our ground staff were unable to gain access with their equipment to maintain the area. We are in discussions with Greensquare to try to rectify the problem of access.

We will shortly be providing additional bins in all our playparks for mixed recycling which will be placed alongside the general waste bins.

As always with the play areas, we would ask residents to be vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour they see by calling the police on 101. This assists them in helping to identify patterns of anti-social behaviour and allows the Council to make the appropriate insurance claims. We would appreciate it if you could also inform the Parish Council who can then swiftly carry out any repair work that needs to be carried out. We would also like to remind residents that dogs are not allowed on any of our play areas and all our play parks are no smoking/vaping areas.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council ground staff, Declan and David, for all their hard work in keeping the parks in such a good condition.

Councillor Sue Relfe, Chair of Play Areas/Recreation

PURTON WAR MEMORIAL AND VILLAGE CENTRE CHARITY

The Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity is a valuable asset within the Village, we have installed CCTV to try and restrict Anti-Social behaviour and this seems to be working although there are still sporadic issues. The Centre now has new signage indication what is on site and available for the residents to enjoy, we now have obvious issues with the ongoing COVID-19; where that will leave the finances is unclear at this stage but we are trying to calculate the impact this is going to have on the future. All clubs are currently closed although in some cases maintenance will be going on, observing the safe distancing and usual safety rules. We sincerely hope the various clubs can keep going and come back stronger when things return to some sort of normality, only time will tell but we wish them all well during difficult times.

The Red House Club has been looking at various options moving forward, the Trustee is looking at these options to see if they are viable and allowed under Charity Law, we were taking legal advice when this situation arose and at the moment all discussions had been suspended with a view to resume discussions as soon as possible, although contact is being maintained by E Mail and phone.

As last year The Tennis, Bowls, and Football Clubs continue to support the centre although they will all have their own problems with funding and membership. We understand their position and will try to do what we can to support them, however the Charity itself will be under immense financial pressure, some costs cannot be deferred, and revenue has dropped.

The kiosk has been opened as a Tai Takeaway and has been successful but unfortunately has also had to temporarily close, hopefully re-opening when this virus situation has passed.

We will still continue to look at options for the use of the Centre to improve the viability and enhance the enjoyment of Parishioners as our first priority.

PURTON VILLAGE HALL AND INSTITUTE BUILDING CHARITY

The complex covers the Museum, Library, Council Offices and the Village Hall.

The situation regarding this has been well documented, we have held quiz nights and raffles to try and improve the viability, we had arranged Cinema nights, our thanks to Councillor Gavin James for all his hard work, only to see everything delayed because of COVID 19, we hope to resume at a later date. When the Co-op was being refurbished we were fortunate to rent some of the car park to contractors during the period, this has bolstered the finances but it has only papered over the cracks and more ideas are needed if the future of the Village Hall is to be secured, we have started to formulate ideas but a way to go before any firm plans can be made.

We have looked at a group to take over as Trustee of the Charities but nothing concrete has emerged; this is still an option if people can be found but it seems unlikely.

We employed a Charity Specialist and are working through recommendations but this was the primary advice given.

Because of Corona Virus all Halls are closed for an indeterminate period but utilisation is very low, and it may be a case of use it or lose it, we hope this is not the case.

THE PLAY CLOSE CHARITY

The Play Close area continues to be well used and supported, especially during the summer months when children can enjoy the equipment whilst playing in a safe environment. There has been some deterioration to the wall, which has now been repaired and our staff maintain the grass and surrounding area to a high standard. Council is sole Trustee of the Charities and it is very difficult to work within the confines laid down by the Charity Commission, we sometimes have to make difficult decisions that are unpopular within the Village, please be aware these decisions are not taken lightly and we occasionally have no choice, we cannot be in breach of Charity Law, the penalties can be severe.

Ray Thomas Chairman of Charities

OVERVIEW REPORT ON PURTON YOUTH GROUP

A disappointing start to the year with CMAS having a change in staff in September which saw a downturn in attendance and sadly in February this year they withdrew their services due to resignation of a new member of staff. To date, the Youth club has remained closed.

As a Council we piggy-back onto the support and approved supplier provided by Wiltshire Council- currently there is no provision for an alternative provider of this type of service, therefore we cannot open until this has been resolved.

The Parish Council will await further direction under the matter from Wiltshire Council and CMAS moving forward and eagerly await positive news in the coming months.

We have budgeted for two youth groups on a Wednesday during term time and are hoping that this matter will be resolved quickly so we can operate both. The revision will provide youth services for all children from 8-18 yrs.

COVI-19 has of course stopped all youth provision, which will hopefully give time to the supplier to employ new Youth Workers for when we restart.