



LAXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



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Laxfield Annual Parish Meeting

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held
on Monday, April 8th, 2018 starting at 8pm**

Village Hall

All residents of the parish of Laxfield are welcome to attend and to raise questions or matters of concern to themselves and / or the wider community. If you are unable to attend in person but would like a question posed please contact the Parish Clerk. Copies of reports will be available on the evening and will be posted afterwards on the website www.laxfield.online

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held on May 14th, 2018.
2. Parish council chairman
3. Parish council finance chairman (see report)
4. Charities (see report)
5. Mid Suffolk District Council (see report)
6. Suffolk County Council
7. Neighbourhood Plan
8. Scout Group (see report)
9. All Saints' Church
10. Any Other Business

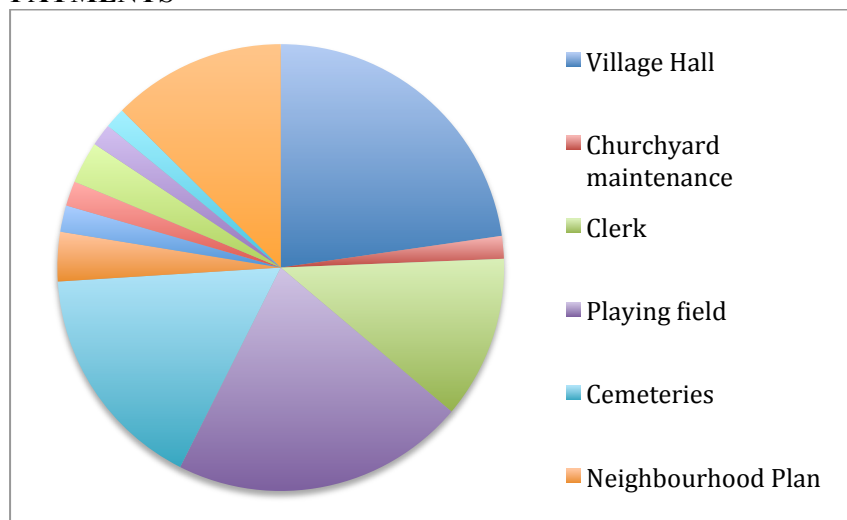
3. Parish council finance report

The council finished with bank balances showing an increase of £2,132 against last year. However, a grant for the Neighbourhood Plan preparation still sits within the figures and discounting that, there is a paper deficit of £2,538.

RECEIPTS

The precept is the main income source at £41,500, while Mid Suffolk District Council gave £2,500 towards the playground repair work. The government provided £6,477 to pay for the work of a consultant for the Neighbourhood Plan.

PAYMENTS



Major areas of expenditure are the village hall (including £11,300 annual repayment on the rebuilding loan), the playing field (including £7,046 on play area repairs) and the cemeteries (including £2,185 of improvements to the new cemetery). The clerk's fees are slightly higher because he leaves at the end of this month and has been paid out of 2018/19 for the annual. His replacement has been appointed and takes over next month.

BUDGET

This council reaches the end of its lifetime and – the self-funded neighbourhood plan aside - its projects are done, so no reserves have been set aside. The council tax for a Band D property will remain the same at £111.65 per year.

ACCOUNTS

BANK ACCOUNTS YEAR BEGINNING		
Current	£4,384.86	31/03/18
Saver	£4,258.50	31/03/18
Reserve	£51,120.30	31/03/18
Opening Balance Total	£59,763.66	31/03/18

	Budget	Actual 2018-19	Variance
RECEIPTS			
Cemetery Fees	£1,500.00	£785.00	-£715.00
Grants	£2,500.00	£3,316.40	£816.40
Groundworks Nbhd Plan	£0.00	£6,477.00	£6,477.00
Miscellaneous	£300.00	£965.44	£665.44
Bank Interest	£130.00	£202.36	£72.36
Precept	£41,500.00	£41,500.00	£0.00
VAT Reclaim	£2,500.00	£2,161.42	-£338.58
Total	£48,430.00	£55,407.62	£6,977.62

PAYMENTS

Clerk's Salary	£5,900.00	£6,525.16	£625.16
Expenses/Stationery	£1,000.00	£712.94	-£287.06
Chairman's Allowance	£500.00	£0.00	-£500.00
Parish Room Cleaner	£270.00	£270.00	£0.00
Street Lighting	£1,600.00	£1,684.13	£84.13
Pond/Vill Hall/Paths	£2,000.00	£272.75	-£1,727.25
Street Cleaning	£900.00	£824.00	-£76.00
Parish Room Lighting	£120.00	£114.82	-£5.18
PWLB	£11,290.00	£11,289.18	-£0.82
Neighbourhood Plan	£1,000.00	£1,977.43	£977.43
Cemetery Caretaker	£900.00	£795.00	-£105.00
Subscriptions	£600.00	£567.00	-£33.00
Insurance	£1,200.00	£995.21	-£204.79
Churchyard/War Mem	£3,500.00	£911.28	-£2,588.72
Section 137	£2,000.00	£1,717.60	-£282.40
Bin emptying	£750.00	£546.00	-£204.00
Rental fees	£350.00	£0.00	-£350.00
Training	£100.00	£436.80	£336.80
Cemetery Expenses	£3,000.00	£8,385.82	-£2,433.00
Repairs & Maintenance	£2,000.00	£892.72	-£1,107.28
Playing Field	£7,000.00	£11,792.20	£4,792.20
Village Hall	£300.00	£1,303.70	£1,003.70
Church clock	£200.00	£180.00	-£20.00
Miscellaneous	£500.00	£350.00	-£150.00
Audit	£650.00	£624.00	£1,003.70
PAYE	£100.00	£108.00	£8.00
Election	£700.00	£0.00	-£700.00
Total	£48,430.00	£53,275.74	£4,845.74

Bank balance to date	£61,895.54
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Cash bk balance to date	£61,895.54
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BANK ACCOUNTS TO END PERIOD 11

Current	£5,101.08	31.03.19	
Saver	£5,501.56	31.03.19	
Reserve	£51,292.90	31.03.19	
Total	£61,895.54	31.03.19	-£0.00

Funds earmarked from reserves for 2018-2019

Cemetery refurbishment	£2,000
Play area refurbishment	£5,000
Sports pavilion refurbishment	£10,000

Spend

£2,185
£7,046 (offset by £2,500 MSDC grant)
Nil

4. Charities

a. Snook Bequest

This is a charity run by the parish council. Its objective is to help the needs of the elderly but for a number of years has funded only the annual Christmas dinner. This year it has also funded two benches in the new cemetery and a bingo machine for Hartismere House.

It is not a registered charity. The balance at April 1 2018 was £16,202 and at March 31 2019 it was £15,339.

b. Village Hall

The village hall works on a January-December financial year. At the end of 2018 the accounts showed a balance of just over £15,000. Takings were lower in most areas but the loss over the year was less than £500 because costs were also down.

It has been another good year for the village hall with a variety of events and regular bookings ensuring that the hall continues to be well maintained and financially secure.

From a point midway through the year there has been a change in personnel running the management committee.

Laxfield Village Hall Accounts Year Ending 31/12/18

2017	Description	2018	Variance
	Invoices Paid		
£559.75	Art / Dance Classes	£370.00	-£189.75
£1,120.00	Exercise Classes	£611.50	-£508.50
£5,512.37	Fundraising Events	£1,450.13	-£4,062.24
£1,878.50	Private Hire & Parties	£1,975.00	£96.50
£336.00	Youth Group	£532.00	£196.00
£775.00	Theatre / Film Nights	£810.00	£35.00
£250.00	Parish Council/Election	£76.25	-£173.75
£135.00	Toddler / Pre School	£0.00	-£135.00
£1,680.02	Bar Takings	£147.18	-£1,532.84
£735.00	Weddings / Funerals	£1,315.75	£580.75
£352.50	Exhibitions / Events	£498.75	£146.25
£443.03	Donations	£420.38	-£22.65
£15.64	Grants Received	£0.00	-£15.64
£22.50	Bank Interest	£28.59	£6.09
£32.91	Miscellaneous	£0.00	-£32.91
£907.00	From last year	£516.00	-£391.00
£0.00	Invoices Outstanding	-£548.75	-£548.75
£13,848.22	Total Income	£8,202.78	-£5,645.44
	Expenditure		
£1,039.72	Electricity	£1,456.14	£416.42
£645.50	Water Accounts	£318.73	-£326.77
£1,812.63	Insurance	£1,698.77	-£113.86
£2,770.77	Materials	£1,404.64	-£1,366.13
£414.57	Licences	£414.56	-£0.01
£638.72	Telephone / Internet	£704.13	£65.41
£240.00	Website	£-	-£240.00
£72.77	Bar	£-	-£72.77
£3,136.40	Caretaker	£2,565.00	-£571.40

£908.50	Purchases for Events	£-	-£908.50
£90.00	Returned deposit	£-	-£90.00
£0.00	Misc Expenses	£107.47	£107.47
£11,769.58	Total Expenditure	£8,669.44	-£3,100.14
£2,078.64	Surplus / Deficit	-£466.66	-£2,545.30

Village Hall contd

Bank Reconciliation

Bfwd 01/01/18 Current	£8,740.23
Bfwd 01/01/18 Savings	£6,267.14
Add 2018 Income	£8,202.78
Add income from 2017	£558.85
Sub Total	£23,769.00
Deduct Total Expenditure	£8,669.44
TOTAL	£15,099.56

Represented by

Current Account 31/12/18	£4,383.45
Savings Account 31/12/18	£10,716.11
Total	£15,099.56

Laxfield Playing Field Association

This is a registered charity that has the parish council as its custodian trustee. All its expenses are met by the precept so the only figure supplied to the Charities Commission is a cost. It works on a January to December financial year and the expenditure for 2018 was £10,063. The main items were grass cutting and repairs to the children's play area. The parish council has been told recently that there is £42,500 available from Mid Suffolk District Council in unclaimed Section 106 grant monies that can be used to revamp the pavilion. Residents are urged to come forward to put together a scheme.

5. Mid Suffolk Council

By Julie Flatman

I have just completed my first term as your district councillor and I would thank you for your kind support. I have had the pleasure of representing your views, queries and even complaints.

As Communities Cabinet member, I have secured funding for various improvements to local amenities within my ward and assisted parishes by sign posting to appropriate funding.

I have supported the village halls, helped buy state of the art playground equipment, re-build a village pond here in Laxfield and play area fencing, buy a new rural coffee caravan after theft, Home Start at Stradbroke, village maps showing footpaths, The Court room refurbishment at Stradbroke and many more projects with my Locality Award.

This year I supported Laxfield Parish Council in works to play area with £2,500 from my locality allowance. I helped with securing the Low House as an Asset of Community Value. In the past year, the communities' team have been successful in delivering the following:

- Social subscribing (activity opposed to pills) at Stradbroke and Fressingfield surgeries.
- The women's EVO cycling tour promoting health and wellbeing and another one planned for June, which also brings money into the district and supports local businesses.
- Safeguarding, mental health awareness, dementia awareness and supporting activities and setting up clubs.
- Launching awards ceremony for volunteers and businesses across the district.
- Funding two PCSO's for two years and addressing County Lines and training staff.
- Arts and music across the district.
- Town and parish liaison, community liaison throughout the district,
- Grants for improvements to shop fronts across the district any many more projects.
- Helping villages with securing Assets of Community value, such as the Low House here in Laxfield.
- Needham Lake development and funding across the district and many more projects.
- Developing our community strategy that went to our partners for consultation in February. I presented the final document to full council and that was passed last month.

I am still working for you until May 2, 2019 so if you need me email Julie.flatman@midsuffolk.gov.uk or ring 01986 798661

6 All Saints' Church

By Liz Hammond & Richard Simmonds

This has been a year of waiting for the completion of various projects. It has taken longer than anticipated to find a suitable match for the existing glass at the back of the nave, and to achieve diocesan approval for the new lighting scheme. We also await the installation of a handrail, to improve access up the steps at the back of the church. We are confident, however that all of these projects will be completed in 2019. It is inspiring to see how the kitchen and lavatory facilities have enhanced the usage of the church building, to benefit other charities and organisations.

A significant change to the use of the building is an installation in the tower to provide a signal for Vodaphone and O2 mobile phones. This work was completed during the summer, and apart from providing a useful service to the community, the church benefits financially.

This year as well as our own fund-raising events and the monthly Community Market, we have been able to host in the church building a Seder Feast during Holy Week, and a fund-raising Mid-Summer Feast in June, with tables running the entire length of the aisle. A Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted by the Laxfield Co-op was held in September. The church has also been used for practice and rehearsals by the Laxfield Community Choir. Our enthusiastic team of bell-ringers continue to spearhead the fund-raising for an ambitious plan to restore and improve the church bells. Fundraising is going extremely well and the village has responded most generously to the appeal. We are very fortunate to have bell ringers willing and available to ring for weddings and special occasions and we are all looking forward to completion of the project.

Work from All Saints' Primary School is regularly displayed in church and our link with the school most definitely enriches the life of the church. We continue with the sale of second hand books at the back of the church, and the amount of goods collected at the back of the church, for distribution by the Waveney Foodbank, has increased exponentially.

Responsibility for the care of our exceptional church building can seem daunting and onerous at times, and the occasional mess and minor incidents of vandalism are disheartening. But comments left in the visitors' book, appreciating the fact that the church is always open, more than compensate for the minor nuisances and more than justify our open door policy.

Thank you to Rev David Burrell and Rev Ron Orams for all that they do for us and to those who help with the services in so many ways. It is the people of the parish and their contributions that make All Saints' a living church and we are very blessed to have such a

large band of people who help in a huge variety of ways. We are so grateful to everyone who works so hard to look after the building - to clean it, to decorate with flowers and to organise and support our fundraising. It was wonderful to end the year with such a large congregation of almost 400 for the Christmas Eve Carol Service.

8. 1st Fressingfield Scout Group **By Michael Knights**



Those who review our annual reports will notice a change of logo for our Scout Group, as the national Scout Association launched its rebranding, we concluded ours locally and our new Group logo incorporates the pilgrim from the Fressingfield village sign and a traditional fleur de leys. We are proud of both our history and local roots.

1st Fressingfield Scout Group membership increased from the previous year, at the census in April we had membership of 159, including leaders and the executive committee, up from 136.

Over the financial year 2018/2019 the 1st Fressingfield Scout Group have continued to generate significant amounts of income. Our general fund that supports our day to day operational costs continues to have a healthy balance – largely due to membership subscriptions. Our Explorer Unit has raised almost £20,000 to fund our international programme, with 11 members of the Group heading out to Kenya in a few weeks' time for a 16-day expedition.

Finally our development fund, has both generated and largely spent £50,000 on developments at our new Priory Road site, where we have been working really hard to develop facilities that support our scouting programme. This includes a recently installed obstacle course paid for by a £10,000 National Lottery grant, environmental works with a £450 grant from the Adnams Trust, nearly 500 saplings planted donated by the Woodland Trust and engineering works kindly supported by Cowhams Car and Commercial.

The Scout Group continues to provide exceptional opportunities to our young people from five-year-old Beavers to 17-year-old Explorers and to our growing team of volunteer adult leaders, to whom I pay a sincere vote of thanks.

We have launched three new sections this year, including Tiger Cubs on a Monday and we now provide scouting opportunities at our new Yoxford and Peasenhall School Scout section, an innovative method of getting scouting into the school curriculum.