



# **Paulton Parish Council**



## **Annual Committee Reports 2017/18**



# Chairman's Annual Report



This past year has been very busy for Paulton Parish Council (PPC) and it looks as though the future will be no different especially with two large projects currently under consideration, apart from the day to day general duties for the administration of the council.

Our two new Admin assistants are just reaching their first anniversary with the parish council and I hope that residents have noticed a marked difference in accessibility to the council offices.

All Councillors attended Trustees training this year as Paulton Parish Council are Trustees for the Village Hall, Paulton Swimming Pool, the Memorial Park and the Miners Recreation Ground. This is a complex issue which needed a specialist to impart their expert knowledge and give clarification to the council on this subject.

The CCTV installation has proved very effective with a couple of incidents being able to be addressed because the perpetrators were identified.

We have recently lost 3 very good councillors – 2 due to work commitments and the other due to health problems and we thank them for their tireless contribution to PPC. However we are happy to report that we have a new Councillor with still 3 vacancies yet to be filled. Anybody who is co-opted onto the Parish Council this year will serve until the elections in May 2019.

Paulton Library is threatened with closure from April 2019. Apart from the information regarding the Library/Hub that you will have seen here in the hall, there will be a chance to see this again in the Library/ Hub on the morning of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 12pm and also at a day event in the meeting room at the council office on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 10am until 8pm. We will also be including a consultation questionnaire in the June magazine regarding this. Please take time to complete the questionnaire and return it to the council office – we need your views to make an informed decision. I believe that there is also an on line version called Survey Monkey for those who prefer that format.

The Swimming Pool continues to go from strength to strength and we are delighted that plans have just been passed for the extension to provide disabled facilities for the many people including school children who swim there. This will of course be a very large financial commitment for the Pool and Paulton Parish Council as Trustees and so we are looking to access several organisations for grants to fund this project. If there is anyone who has any suggestions as to where we can access money, please either speak with the pool manager Nick or the Parish Clerk Jo, who I am sure will be delighted for any help in this matter.

The Youth Service budget is another being cut by B&NES Council which will impact on the youth provision for Paulton. Paulton Parish Council are currently in negotiations to see what assistance can be given to enable this very worthwhile service to remain in the village. The youth service bus is not only a meeting place for the young people, but they cover many aspects of life including information on drug misuse, sexual healthy, healthy eating etc. and would be greatly missed by all of our young people.

Once again Paulton Parish Council are pleased that they have been able to award financial help through their annual grants to various Paulton clubs/societies. These grants enhance either resident's wellbeing or the village appearance for both young and old alike.

I would like to thank our Guest Speakers, Kathleen Still, John Reynolds and Martin Roberts for attending our Annual Assembly to give our residents information on a variety of interesting topics.

**Anne Lyons, Chairman**

# Events that took place in 2017

## **WW1 Event**

7th October 2017

The Village came together to join in a poignant but celebratory event hosted by Paulton Parish Council. Paulton Amateur Dramatic Society (P.A.D.S) performed a short play followed by poetry, Piano and singing.

The Red Lion pub provided a war time themed buffet which was accompanied by a glass of wine.

## **Remembrance Parade**

12th November 2017

The local Cadets marched through the village to remember those lost during the war. Names of those soldiers were read out at the war memorial as a mark of respect and a short service was held at the Methodist church. Teas and coffees were also provided.

## **Christmas Lights**

25th November 2017

This big family event is always popular and 2017 was a great success. Paulton Parish Council host a Christmas Market where local craftsmen and businesses sell their goods. Stalls included home made cakes, Christmas crafts, jewellery, local honey hot food and lots more. The Christmas lights were switched on by Peter Yeates, organiser of the Double Hills Service. Stalls and tombola's were held in the Wesley hall and Father Christmas gave out chocolates to children. The brass band played and local carol singers sang. We were also joined by SomervallyFM who did a live broadcast from the event.

## **Festive Windows**

December 2017

During December local businesses were invited to dress their shop windows with a Christmas theme. Three prize hampers were given to the winners at a presentation morning along with teas, coffees and mince pies.

# Reports from Committees

## Events

2017 has been quite a busy year for this committee and I hope that the residents of Paulton have enjoyed the various events.

During October, Paulton School Hall was the venue for a WW1 production in collaboration with Paulton Amateur Dramatics (PADS). The evening was enjoyed by many residents and included an authentic World War 1 buffet produced by Leanne of the Red Lion.

Remembrance Sunday was well attended by residents and after the service in the Methodist Church, the Events committee served teas and coffees to the congregation.

The last week of November saw the annual switch on of the Christmas tree lights by Peter Yeates. With good weather expected the turn out of residents was exceptional. Carol singing around the Christmas tree accompanied by Paulton Concert Band, a variety of stalls in the Precinct and the Methodist Hall, art works being shown in the Cellar, the arrival of Santa Claus who distributed chocolate to the waiting children and Holy Trinity Church open for a wonderful show of Christmas trees decorated by local groups, all made for a memorable evening.

2018 is going to be another busy year especially with the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1. The Parish Council are going to mark this historic event with something special which we hope will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, so please look out for details in the coming months.

Anne Lyons

## Planning & Highways

Over the course of the last year, the committee has considered and commented on 53 planning applications (+5 from last year) – 21 being for extensions to existing houses (+5), 7 new builds (mainly for infill sites) (-1), 3 extensions to business premises (-2), 2 to do with foliage (mainly works to trees) (-2) and 20 relating to a variety of other planning issues (+5). Other issues include conversions, changes of use and ancillary work, such as detached garages.

The Parish Council has also been involved in a successful planning application for an extension to the swimming pool, which will mainly provide facilities for disabled users. If funding can be secured, the work will hopefully be carried out this year.

Around this time last year, we looked into the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, which would have set out how our residents wanted the village and surrounding area to evolve over the next 15 or so years. However, despite several presentations and other publicity, there appeared to be very little wider interest in this kind of project, so it was abandoned.

At the moment, we're working with B&NES on the development of the new Local Plan and the revised Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), which is the latest attempt to find even more land for housing.

We are also involved in the development of the designated Somer Valley Enterprise Zone, which is located to the north and west of Wickes at Old Mills. This development is intended to provide jobs for local people, removing the need to commute. Whether this will succeed is uncertain, given the disparities between the B&NES Local Plan and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Joint Spatial Plan.

# Planning & Highways Continued..

## **HIGHWAYS**

### **Parking and drop-off points (paid from s106 funds)**

The committee has for some time been dealing with these issues in support of the schools' expansion travel plan at the request of the Head Teachers.

### **Elm Road**

Still waiting! The latest information we have is that the sale of the land has been agreed and that the legal formalities are being completed. An update will be provided when more information is received.

### **Plumptre Road**

The layout design has been completed and approved. The Parish Council will manage the land on licence from Curo, the terms of which have been agreed. Whilst restrictions will be in place during school times, outside of these, parking spaces will be open to all residents and will double as general parking for the area. We expect that work will start soon.

### **Winterfield Road crossing and improved Ham Lane steps**

This scheme is proposed to provide safer crossing to and from the schools from the East (via Ham Lane and Alexandra Park), and the bus stop opposite the Baptist Church from the West. The committee considered that the original feasibility study had data issues and requested that it was repeated. A second study has been carried out and the scheme was found to be viable in terms of highways regulations. Costs are currently being compiled and should be available shortly for consideration. Spatial restrictions in Ham Lane mean that a ramp is not feasible.

### **Other work**

We are also currently working with B&NES Highways department to address the issue of potholes in our roads. Ham Lane and Brittens Hill are currently in progress and will hopefully be improved in the near future. Unfortunately, there are a large number of potholes that don't meet the criteria for remedial works, so, as money is short, these won't be considered at this time.

**Jeff Humphries**

**Chairman of Planning & Highways Committee**

## Parks & Amenities

**Wallenge Recreation Area** To our newcomers to the village, the Wallenge is a small play area with child's play equipment and a grass area with goal posts and seats and has one of the best views in the area, well worth a visit for picnics etc.

There are 3 entrances. 2 from steps and one from a grass bank. We have just received the ok from Banes to fence off the bank walkway and also to improve the surface for easier access. The steps entrances have recently been sign posted.

**Memorial Park** This area continues to be well used with an excellent play area and fitness equipment which is open for use by all. We have recently provided a picnic table with access for people with mobility problems also in the near future we hope to provide a sun/rain shelter in the play area to provide cover from the elements. After comments and advice from the Britain in Bloom South West judges we are putting name tags on all the trees in the park and the cemetery. Hopefully again this is done by the time you read this and the residents and users of the park find the information interesting.

**Recreation Ground** The BMX track was and is a big project. We were informed last year that the area was unsuitable and could be unsafe and that short term repairs were needed. After consulting with some of the users about their needs and long term aspirations for the BMX Track, Paulton Parish Council decided to totally resurface the existing track and also add a new berm on the Northern end. This is something the users were very keen to have, again this work should be completed before this report is received. In the future if well used and supported and funds become available we could maybe extend the track.

**The Cemetery** continues to get more than favourable comments with regards to the maintenance of the area and received a Level 5 'Outstanding' from the 'It's your neighbourhood' Awards Britain in Bloom South West. The cemetery was recognised along with the War Memorial and the Memorial Park so I'm sure you will join me by thanking Paul and Mark our Groundsmen for their efforts in keeping such high standards.

Also at the cemetery we will be renovating the small chapel so that relatives and friends can gather before or after any service.

Just a couple of reminders that Paulton Parish Council fund and maintain the public toilets at the Red Lion car park so for newcomers and visitors to the park they are situated some 200 metres from the bottom entrance to the park, cross at the pedestrian crossing down Foundry Walk to where the toilets are situated. Also a quick reminder to all dog walkers, please help our ground staff to keep our high standards by picking up 'Dog Poo' and putting it in to bins provided. It only takes one irresponsible dog owner to leave one deposit to ruin a families enjoyment of the park .

Hope you continue to enjoy all the facilities.

Best Wishes

**Cyril Mitchard**

**Chairman of Parks and Amenities Committee**



# Grants

Paulton Parish Council supports local good causes that benefit parishioners. In the 2017/18 financial year the Parish Council supported the following organisations:

<b><u>ORGANISATION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Acorn Pre School	£ 250.00
Paulton British Legion	£ 500.00
Cam Valley Arts Trail Group	£ 75.00
Double Hills Arnhem	£ 500.00
Party In The Park	£1500.00
Somer Valley Walking Festival Steering Committee	£ 50.00
Pride In Paulton	£1500.00
The Community Bus	£ 750.00
W.I.S.H	£1000.00
Purnell Sports FC	£ 675.00
Swan Advice Network	£ 250.00
Paulton Amateur Dramatics	£ 300.00
Dial A Ride	£ 615.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>£7965.00</u></b>

# Calendar of Meetings 2018/19

<b><u>Parish Council</u></b>	<b><u>Planning &amp; Highways</u></b>	<b><u>Parks &amp; Amenities</u></b>	<b><u>Events</u></b>
15th May	8th May		Dates to be confirmed.
19th June	5th June	19th June	
17th July	3rd July		
21st August	7th August	21st August	
18th September	4th September		
23rd October	2nd October	23rd October	
20th November	6th November		
18th December	4th December	18th December	
15th January	8th January		
12th February	5th February	12th February	
19th March	5th March		
23rd April	2nd April	23rd April	

# Paulton Parish Council

We are looking for new Parish Councillors

LOCAL ISSUES NEED LOCAL PEOPLE TO SPEAK UP FOR THEM



YOU can play a vital role in representing the interests of the community and can help keep Paulton a good place to live.

YOU could get local views about local issues brought to the attention of the powers that be.

YOU will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other **people's daily lives and prospects.**

Becoming a Councillor is rewarding and you only need to give up a minimum of one evening a month to attend the Parish Council meeting. A full schedule of the meetings and what the Parish Council does is on the website [www.paultonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.paultonparishcouncil.org.uk)

New Councillors will hold office until the next local elections in 2019.

Any person interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Clerk, Jo Swift 01761 413644 or e-mail [clerk@paultonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@paultonparishcouncil.org.uk) for information.

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Office open Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm and Friday 9am to 1pm