



Paulton Parish Council



Annual Committee Reports 2018/19



Chairman's Annual Report



It is amazing that it has been a year since we decided on a new format for the Annual Assembly by introducing a pamphlet showing what each committee has done over the past year. The Chairman of these committees will elaborate on the work undertaken by the committee members giving you an insight into the work of the council – it is not just the niceties like the events that we do, but also we are consultees of Planning – in other words we can support, reject or make comments, but we **cannot** make decisions – that is wholly down to B&NES.

Once again this has been a very busy year for Paulton Parish Council (PPC) and as with most organisations things haven't always gone to plan! And it looks as though the future will be no different especially with two large projects currently under way and the elections being held on 2nd May. As this pamphlet goes to print rumour has it we could be heading for an election for Paulton Parish Council, so please take the time and vote for your Councillors.

PPC has had a somewhat difficult year carrying out the transition of the Library/Hub from B&NES. However, we are on course for taking over the running of this facility on 29th April. To enable the Library/Hub to grow and give more opportunity for community use, has meant internal changes to the layout of the facility. The Library/Hub will therefore be closed for three weeks while these changes are implemented. Jeff Humphries will give an update on this tonight.

**The Hub
Committee
Members**



The Swimming Pool continues to go from strength to strength and now that the plans have been passed for the extension to provide disabled facilities for the many people including school children who swim there, we are striving to get funding to help with this very worthwhile project. This is a very large financial commitment for the Pool and Paulton Parish Council as Trustees and we continue to approach several organisations for grants to help fund this project, but with little success to date. If there is anyone who has any suggestions as to where we can access money, please either speak with the Pool Manager Nicola or Jo our Parish Clerk, who I am sure will be delighted for any help in this matter.

There is no longer a Youth Service budget for B&NES which would have impacted on the youth provision for Paulton. However several local Parish Councils have been in discussion and we have now become part of a Mutual with Stowey Sutton, Radstock, Westfield and Timsbury which enables all parish councils to continue with the youth provision in their area. The youth service is not only a meeting place for the young people, but during the session they cover many aspects of life including information on drug misuse, sexual health, healthy eating etc. and would be greatly missed by all of our young people, so we are delighted that this facility has been saved through collaboration with neighbouring parishes.

As this is my final year as Chairman of the council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors for their hard work and commitment that they have given to different projects over the last four years and to the Admin team for the support that they have given both to myself and the Councillors.

I know that the incoming Councillors will receive the same support that I have been given over the years and I wish them all the very best of luck as they take up their duties on behalf of Paulton residents.

Finally, I would like to thank our Guest Speakers, Peter Yeates and Julie Hogan for attending our Annual Assembly to give our residents information on a variety of interesting topics.

Anne Lyons, Chairman

Events 2018/2019

We had a busy Autumn this year with the events taking place in a short space of time.

Paulton Remembers - 10th November 2018



On the 10th November a commemoration event for the end of World War One in Paulton was presented by the **Natural Theatre Company** giving Paulton residents a chance to perform alongside the Natural Theatre Company who were focusing on peace and healing as it was Centenary of the end of the Great War. The day began with the raising of the Flag by Paulton's, Margaret Thomas, 100 years young, who was born in 1918. Sonia Howe from the Armed Services Covenant and Karen Walker, chair of B&NES, also came along to support the opening. Paulton Concert band and Jackie Bevan with the Starlight Singers entertained us through the day and many joined in the sing-a-long sessions.

Characters were created and scenes based on research into the local area at this time and then performed them on the day as a set piece scene (in a tent) recreating the local war hospital or as roaming characters around the event.

Other tents contained a Peace Corporation audio installation – playing interviews with people from Paulton and a Military Drum Workshop, which proved very popular. Soldier Silhouettes provided by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund were situated around the event giving visitors a chance reflect on the last 100 years.

A giant poppy made of over 100 ceramic poppies made by the community with artist, Elaine Bruce, was displayed in the hall and visitors had a chance make their own Poppy Badge or Broach to take away.

Also in the Hall visitors could sit and have a natter with the Knit and Natter ladies, plant a bulb with The Potting Shed, learn about family research with Bath College Community Learning Team. One of the highlights on display was a genuine WW1 Ambulance in all its glory.

At the end of the event the Somer Valley Tapestry made by the community with the help from Artist Edwina Bridgeman was revealed and showed the names of the two Privates that lost their lives in the great war but had not been remembered in any ceremony in this Country, Private Tom Keeling from Farmborough and Private James Steven Horler from Farrington Gurney.

A Minutes Silence was held and the Last Post played whilst the Flag lowered by relations of Pte Thomas Keeling, Mr Peter Yeates.

Many thanks to all concerned but especially The Paulton Ladies, Paulton Methodist Church Ladies and the Ladies Circle who baked cakes and served tea. The event raised over £300 on the day and this has been donated to the Royal British Legion.

Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2018



The local Cadets, Scouts, Brownies and Girl Guides along with Paulton residents marched through the village on Sunday 11th November 2018, to assemble at the war memorial and to lay wreaths to remember those lost during the first and second wars.

The names of the soldiers were read out by **Gail Garlick** and a short service was held at the memorial before the congregation marched back through the village to The Holy Trinity Church for a fuller service. Teas and Coffee were then served.

Christmas Lights switch on/ Christmas market **24th November 2018**

On Saturday 24th November 2018 Christmas festivities came early to Paulton as the traditional switching on of the Christmas Lights is now combined with Paulton's very own Christmas Market. Local traders came along to sell their crafts on covered stalls in Hill Court Precinct, whilst an indoor market in the Wesley Hall, raised money for local charities. There was great excitement at Santa's grotto in the Wesley Hall when Father Christmas, accompanied by elves appeared and handed out chocolate rewards to children.

The Lamb Inn and cafe Bombero supplied festive food as did Dave Wilcox in his mobile food van. Our Co-op store were collecting for Julian House and Tesco were giving away goodies in the Wesley Hall. This event gives local talented people a chance to sell their products to the local area.

The highlight of the event was the switching on of the Christmas Lights by Paulton's very own **Graham Dix**. Graham has been a Parish Councillor for 40 years. He was also chairman of the Parish Council from 1979 – 2011. Graham is still a Councillor on Paulton Parish Council, serving the people of Paulton. As he switched on the lights, Graham said "Thank you for asking me to switch on the lights. I am delighted to see so many Paulton people coming out in the cold weather to support what the Parish Council has organised for the village."

After the lights were switched on, Neil Harrington lead the traditional singing of Christmas songs and carols around the tree, to the great enjoyment of all present.

New to the event this year the children were able to take part in a Reindeer trail as well as being able to enter the colouring competition which was won by **Alfie Baker aged 4**, with runners up **Olivia Capon age 4**, **Alice brown age 4** and **Etta Brown aged 2**.

We had a lovely afternoon and evening that was enjoyed by so many parishioners.

Paulton Village Festive Window Competition December 2018

Paulton businesses were full of the Christmas spirit and took up the invite from Paulton Parish Council to decorate their shop window with a festive theme.

2018 saw some very amazing displays and on Thursday, 13th December the owners of the dressed windows were invited to Paulton Hub for Coffee and mince pies and were presented with Hampers. The prize winners were **1st The Lamb Inn;** **2nd Beauty Bijou;** **Joint 3rd Bryan G Bishop, Funeral Directors and Little Stars Baby Room** and **Highly Commended goes to Allen Residential Estate Agents.**

The chair of the Events Committee Miranda Stevens was delighted with the effort everyone had put in making the village colourful and festive and would like to extend a big thank you to the businesses and also to Pride in Paulton, a group of volunteers who, once again, erected decorated Christmas trees in the High Street which complemented the decorated windows.

The events this year were challenging, but thankfully enjoyed by so many residents. My thanks goes to everyone who helped, but especially the Events Committee and the Admin staff who worked above and beyond to ensure the events were successful.



Miranda Stevens - Chair of events, Paulton Parish Council

Stevens - Chair of

Parks & Amenities Committee

To start my report on the Parks and Amenities I will start with the Cemetery.

This area looks as good as ever and we always receive favourable comments from it's visitors. We must credit Mark and Paul our groundsmen in all their efforts in maintaining the high standard.

We move onto the Wallange Recreational area. This area is well worth a visit as it has recently had new play equipment installed, as well as mini football goal posts. It's well worth a walk from the centre of the village to enjoy some of the best views across the village and beyond. There are 3 entrances, steps from either end and a walkway along the bank which has been fenced off since last year.

The Memorial Park which is a much loved space by everyone who uses it has recently had a Calloo shelter installed in the play area to hopefully provide shelter from the sun or more likely inclement weather. The roundabout has been replaced which caters for visitors with mobility problems. We have also installed a new park bench in memory of the 100 years since the end of World War one.

To aid the security of our new additions extra CCTV has been installed to cover a wider area. Last year it was intended to label the trees, the project was half completed when the tags were removed and broken so it was decided not to proceed with the project. Vandalism continues to be an issue as 3 of the ornamental pear trees have been damaged.

In the Recreation Ground after initial problems with the quality of the surface of the new BMX track it was completed and is a great success and it was opened by some local children in February. The youth shelter has been rid of some offensive graffiti and repainted and at the time of writing this report no more vandalism has occurred.

Just to remind our residents although the Red Lion Pub is currently closed the Public Toilets maintained by Paulton Parish Council are still open in the centre of the village some 200 meters from the park.

To finish up I would like to mention the perennial problem with dog poo. This is not just in Paulton it is everywhere but it only takes the action of one irresponsible dog owner to leave a deposit to ruin a family

This is not just in Paulton it is everywhere but it only takes the action of one irresponsible dog owner to leave a deposit to ruin a family experience in our park or on our footpaths. Free poo bags are available from the Council Office.

Finally I must congratulate all those involved in the effort to win The Best Large Village Award 2018. The time and effort put in by everyone is I'm sure much appreciated by all in the village.

I hope you all continue to enjoy our village and it's amenities.

Councillor Hugh Warren
Chairman of Parks and Amenities Committee



Planning & Highways Committee

The Planning & Highways Committee is one of the busiest committees of the Parish Council. We have to consider each planning application within a statutory time frame in order for applications to comply with the eight weeks from application to decision timescale. At the start of last year it was decided to move the Planning meetings from every three weeks to every four and we have found this schedule has worked very well.

In the past year Paulton Parish Council has considered 36 planning and tree works applications. These included extensions to existing properties, new developments and pruning of trees in the conservation area. Of this number, 10 were objected to and 19 were supported. For the remaining number we variously noted or made comments as appropriate. This represents a decrease in applications considered from last year, perhaps due to economic uncertainty.

We consider each application in detail and the merit or detriment of each development is discussed. We rely on the local knowledge of our councillors to flag up issues that representatives from BANES may not know, however objections to planning applications may only be made based on planning laws and not just because 'we don't like it'. We take into accounts sight lines, loss of natural light, overlooking, plus consider the content of a number of letters and emails of objections et cetera. Every application is considered on its own merit.

Of particular concern to the Parish Council is the loss of trees so where arboricultural work is required we do ask that trees are replaced where possible. In addition we try to ensure each new development is the right fit for the village and not one that will put any additional strain on our roads and services.

All Planning & Highways meetings are public meetings and anyone is welcome to attend. Many Paultonians are happy to take an active part in planning issues for which we are very grateful.

One issue that was discussed at a couple of meetings was the possible removal of the traffic calming build out on Bath Road. We heard from several residents, the majority of whom wanted the build out to remain in place and we took advice from the Highways team at BANES; it was decided no action would be taken. The safety of parishioners both driving and pedestrians remains paramount and central to our decision making.

We continue to bring issues regarding pot-holes, road surfaces and road signage to the attention of BANES as and when needed.

In the later part of last year the Planning Committee undertook assessments on several parcels of land as directed by BANES for the revised Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) - we await the outcome of this.

Somer Valley Enterprise Zone The work around the Enterprise Zone continues. The area west of Wickes is zoned for commercial development and B&NES want to encourage business to the area. In an Enterprise Zone no business rates are paid which should encourage businesses to locate to the area. A hotel is also planned. It is also planned that the roads will be widened and improved, especially the road towards Farrington. At the moment there are only ongoing talks, there are no solid plans or timescales.

Parking and drop-off points The Plumptre Road drop off area has been completed and is well used at school drop off times. Elm Road is still a work in progress; at a recent meeting B&NES asked the Parish Council to review their report and reconfirm support for this scheme. We looked at a number of concerns from residents as well as a letter from the head of Paulton Infant School and it was felt that whilst the committee understood the residents concerns there was still support for the scheme as there is a need for parents/carers to safely drop children off at school.

Winterfield Road crossing In June it was confirmed that the Ham Lane steps needed structural assessments by an external consultant. This has not been progressed due to the costs so a review has been requested to establish if there is a more cost effective design that will improve the existing arrangement. It was felt that the Winterfield Road zebra crossing should progress independent of the steps, as the crossing location is well used: the next stage will be engagement with adjacent owners and the Parish.

This year was my first year chairing the Planning & Highways Committee which has been quite an experience. I'd like to say a big thank you to the former Chair Jeff Humphries who was an asset with his wealth of planning knowledge.

Councillor Hannah Howson—Chairman of Planning & Highways committee

Grants

Paulton Parish Council supports local good causes that benefit parishioners. In the 2018/2019 financial year the Parish Council supported the following organisations:

1st Paulton Guides
Acorn Pre-School
Citizen Advice
Paulton Amateur Dramatics
Paulton Party In The Park
Pride In Paulton Partnership
Purnell Sports FC

Paulton Parish Council
The Village Hall
Farrington Road
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