

## ***NORTH NIBLEY PARISH COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015/16.***

The Council is pleased to present its Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2016. The current Parish Council has just completed its single year of service and will stand down in May. The new Parish Council is due to be elected on 5 May.

Details of all Parish Council activities can be found on the Parish Council website at: <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/northnibley>

In recognition of its status the Council was delighted to be awarded Foundation Status under the Local Council Award Scheme. The Award is due to be received at the Parish Meeting on 4 April.

**Parish Council Activities.** Your Parish Council has once again been active this year, working on behalf of the Community. The Council:

- met monthly throughout the year;
- Purchased and installed a defibrillator at the Village Hall thanks to financial assistance from North Nibley Music Festival and help from British Heart Foundation;
- awarded 8 Grants, totalling £1,500, to support local organisations in providing services to people in the Parish;
- made representations to British Telecom and our MP about the delays in improving broadband services to the parish. Organised two public meetings which have led to BT/Openreach promises of broadband service improvements in 2016/17.
- has continued to regularly contribute to “On The Edge” as a means of keeping parishioners informed of the Council’s activities;
- commented upon 22 Applications to Stroud District Council Planning;
- challenged Stroud DC and the plans for two solar farms in Alkington Parish;
- continued to develop and explore proposals for affordable housing in the parish;
- organised and was supported by many volunteers during the seventh “Village Clean-Up Day” on 19 March 2016;
- worked with Gloucestershire Highways to ensure they repaired and maintained our road surfaces; repaired/maintained street lighting; replenished all existing grit bins during the winter; and sought advice on vehicle speed through the Village.
- worked with Gloucestershire “Rights of Way team” to maintain footpaths within the parish; arranged for unstable trees on Wood Lane to be dealt with; and continued to work with them to assist in producing a longer term solution to the bank.
- liaised with Stroud DC Neighbourhood Warden to ensure that rubbish dumped on the roadside was collected. Also promoted the Neighbourhood Warden service to parishioners;
- worked with the police in carrying out speed checks in Village on B4060;
- in response to a suggestion set up a “20 is Plenty” zone in Barrs Lane;
- carried out repairs to the wall to St Martin’s churchyard;
- challenged Gloucestershire CC application of school transport policy; and
- took forward plans to sell the Council’s land at Breakheart Hill.

**Parish Council Property.** The Council owns land, throughout the Parish.

- 1) **Land at Nibley Knoll.** The Council's 6 acres at Nibley Knoll continue to be managed by the Nibley Knoll Trust to ensure the long term future of the Hill for the Community.
- 2) **Land at Breakheart Hill.** Following consideration by the Council a decision has been taken to sell this piece of Parish Council land. The land is due to be put on the market imminently. The Council has identified several potential uses for the resources generated which should in the longer term help the Council to hold and possibly reduce future calls on the Council Tax.
- 3) **The Cemetery.** Further work has been carried out to maintain the Cemetery in accordance with the long term Maintenance Plan. Mrs King has continued in her role as Burial Clerk and worked hard to assist local families deal with their arrangements. Thanks are also appropriate to a number of parishioners who have worked voluntarily to keep the Cemetery tidy.
- 4) **Jubilee Recreation Field.** The Council, through their representative on the Trust (Mr Keith Larkin), has continued to work with the Recreation Field Trust.
- 5) **The Closed Churchyard at St Martin's Church.** The Council, having taken over responsibility for the Closed Churchyard at St. Martin's Church in 2014, have continued to carry out essential maintenance and repairs to the churchyard.

### **Parish Council Finances.**

In 2015/16 the Council was required to increase the Precept to £15,240, in part to meet increased expenditure at St Martin's Churchyard.

### **Looking ahead to 2016/17**

- The Council, will continue to work with Gloucestershire Rural Council Community Council (GRCC) in taking forward ideas about meeting the housing needs of the Parish. It is hoped that by working together we will be able to meet those needs in the next few years.
- The Council continue to work with the Gloucestershire Police to address the concerns of parishioners about the speed of traffic entering the Village. It is hoped that a **Community Speed Watch Group** can soon be established. The Council already have 6 volunteers and need a further 4 to make the Group viable.
- For 2016/17 the Council have had to increase its proportion of **Council Tax** in order to meet the additional costs of maintaining the churchyard walls and grass cutting. As well as carrying out further essential maintenance work in the Cemetery.

Parishioners are welcome to attend the monthly Council meetings held in the Village Hall.

**Mr David Purnell.**

**Chairman of North Nibley Parish Council.**