

NORTH NIBLEY PARISH COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19

The Council is pleased to present its Annual report for the year ending 31 March 2019

Details of all Parish Council activities can be found on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.northnibleyparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Summary of Parish Council Activities

Your Parish Council has been active again this year working on behalf of the community. The Council met monthly throughout the year responding to planning applications, managing the cemetery and working with Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council.

Council Activities in more detail

- September cemetery open day. The gathering event was the first time this event has been held. Parishioners had the opportunity to view new works, ask questions and view historical documents;
- Council continued to make improvements in the cemetery to include this year a new plinth for the memorial garden, and a fence to deter wildlife entering the cemetery from the lower end near the field;
- Tree survey on council property, especially cemetery and churchyard, completed last autumn. Work now commissioned with tree surgeons and due to start in April and May;
- Worked to maintain the condition of the two telephone boxes with parishioner support;
- Established a councillor working party sub group to take speed awareness project forward. This includes a councillor representative attending the district organisation, The Five Valleys Road Safety Partnership;
- Commissioned recreation field equipment for the Jubilee playing field;
- Annual defibrillator service completed in the autumn and inner pads and outer box replaced;
- Successful village clean-up day carried out over two days in March on a Friday and Saturday. This included school support on the Friday when children were organised in teams to cover safe areas;
- Continued to liaise with local organisations for community benefit to include the Neighbourhood Warden Service, Police Community Support Service, the school, and village shop association. The Neighbourhood Warden patrols to ensure proper use of the quarry and cemetery especially out of hours;
- Implemented Data Protection requirements when the legislation came in and continues to monitor requirements under the legislation;
- Responded to the district authority consultations wherever these may affect the local community; for example, Stroud District Local Plan Review;
- Representatives attend meetings to monitor and progress affordable housing initiatives wherever possible;
- Co-opted a new councillor early 2019 following a councillor resignation late 2018;
- Refers requests for family history to the burial clerk who retains parish records and can refer enquirers to relevant websites and county and other sources of information;
- Visitors to the council website have steadily increased in numbers with a peak in usage early in 2019.

Parish Council Property

- 1) **Land at Nibley Knoll.** The Council has six acres on Nibley Knoll which is managed by the Knoll Trust alongside the Trust's own land
- 2) **The Cemetery.** The Council maintains the cemetery in accordance with the long term

Maintenance Plan. Jean Palmer has taken on the role of Burial Clerk following the retirement of Mrs King.

- 3) **Jubilee Recreation Field.** The Council, through their representative on the Trust has continued to work with the Recreation Field Trust.
- 4) **The Closed Churchyard.** The Council has continued to carry out essential maintenance and repairs to the St Martin's churchyard.

Parish Council Finances

There will be no increase to the 2019/20 Parish Precept over last year which is held at £18,040. The Council retains sufficient reserves to meet its commitments under its Risk Management Policy, and also additional reserves to enable some key new projects to be considered .

Outline of plans for next year

- The council will continue to explore options for affordable housing within the Parish and will communicate key development to parishioners through the council website and OTE reports;
- Complete the adult recreation field project and report on progress from the speed sub group;
- The council is acting as a facilitator for local first aid and community responder training sessions.