

**PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**THE ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2017/2018**

To be given at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19th March 2018 at 8.00pm  
in the Village Hall, High Street, Pembury, Kent.

You are cordially invited to attend!



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MARCH 2018**

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Parish Council this last year and has gone to every household in the Parish of Pembury. Any Pembury resident can raise any issue or concern at this meeting.

The Parish Council is committed to the Code of Local Government of Conduct and Probity. It has a strict convention that it is not "party political" in any way.

### **Finance and Accounts**

A summary of the Council's budget is at the end of this report in more detail than is statutory required. To ensure the highest standards there are robust checks and independent internal and external audit processes.

This last year has certainly been different with the lovely Barbara's retirement and the need to find a replacement who had the skills we required. We were so really pleased to have Helen Munro accept our offer. Helen has brought new skills with her and which was much needed in today's governance. I sincerely hope Helen enjoys us as much as we appreciate her.

### **PLANNING and HIGHWAYS**

The Parish Council is a "Statutory Consultee" only but every application is examined very carefully and commented on. Up to the time of writing this report we have had 67 this year. There is still no news on the bigger applications such as Owls Nest, or Sturgeons but are due to go for examination by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils full planning committee as both need proper examination.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Planning Committee narrowly voted to grant a planning application for the building of a new health centre facility called 'Cornford Court', to be located in the grounds of the Cornford House Care Home, off Cornford Lane, Pembury.

Pembury Parish Council wishes to place on record its bitter disappointment at the Planning Committee's decision, which it feels runs roughshod over local opinion. It remains our view that it is the wrong building in the wrong place.

Again, as we go to print the new footpath at Blackhurst needs to be finished and the footpath along the Tonbridge Road is being finished. This is going to be such an asset for everyone who works at the Hospital or the Retail Park. What an amazing feat by Highways England re the A21, remember the days when we never thought it would end? I guess it will next be Kipping's Cross section next for us to cope with. I must commend the Chair of Planning and his committee for scrutinising all the applications so thoroughly.

### **AMENITIES, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, PRIDE IN PEMBURY**

The Scarecrow competition again was such fun with the calibre of the entries getting better and more complex each year, the youngsters of the village pull all the stops out and now that adults are entering, it's going to be even better.

It was a lovely sunny day for Picnic on the Green, really well attended and it's great to meet old and new friends for a catch up and just enjoy the music.

Thank you to the Camden Arms for their generosity of sponsorship for the main act and also a huge thank to our local musicians "The Dirty Nellies", our M.C. Patrick Gillan is a superb class act and ensures it runs smoothly, thank you to all the Cllrs who give up their time to assist making it a fun afternoon.

Pride in Pembury has always been about the work you all put in to produce such wonderful gardens and displays, it's very hard judging as you are all winners in our eyes and you all help so much in making our village so attractive.

Firework Evening this year was really busy; it had a full capacity crowd in the Recreation Ground and every year the displays never fail to amaze - stunning colours again this time. The bucket collection was donated by the Parish Council to the Scout and Guides to peruse the reality of getting the work done for an accessible ramp into the headquarters. The total amount was £3,136, every disabled child will soon have the choice to enrol.

New benches have been placed in the Recreation Ground and the Burial Ground, also new lidded litter bins to stop animals or birds scattering the rubbish.

The Recreation Ground is our jewel in the village and extremely well used and we are always looking to improve this finite space.

### **ENVIROMENT, ENVIROMENTAL ISSUES incorporating ALLOTMENTS and BURIALS.**

It has been a very positive year for the Allotment holders and the committee, there has been two massive clear ups and its now looking a credit to this special community.

In the Burial Ground the new Memorial Wall is getting plaques on it to remember your loved ones and the finishing touch was provided by the generosity of Notcutts who so kindly donated plants and shrubs to go at the base of the wall, it's all beginning to look very respectful. The box hedging has had to be replaced with posts and chains as the box couldn't withstand the elements.

The group also planted bulbs around the War Memorial to bloom in the Spring to bring a subtle touch of colour there and we are indebted to the Cubs for planting the rest at Woodsgate Corner to enhance our Gateway into the village.

Litter is such an ongoing problem and one the committee are always addressing and have organised clean ups.

**PEMBURY VILLAGE NEWS** deserves a mention as it reaches every household and the feedback is always so encouraging, advertisers are on a waiting list and they also give the Editor feedback as to inquiries, its useful to help find reliable firms if you need a job doing, the Editorial team work hard to maintain the service you require.

I am often struck by how many of our residents are not always sure of what our staff do, well this year we have upgraded the Computers, various new software, new banking arrangements, taking back the website and doing our own, Facebook management, tendering, extending the office hours until 3 pm, funeral assistance with plots and paperwork, keeping up to date with all legislation, planning co-ordinating, plus a myriad of other things that a busy village experiences.

Our Groundsmen undertake the maintenance of three burial grounds, two are not in service but all three still need to look tidy and respectful, playground inspections, recreation grounds, open spaces maintenance, hedge cutting, support to our volunteer group, trees, in fact anything and everything that needs attention, and we are so grateful to all our staff for ensuring they do their utmost for the village.

Our staff and my colleagues on the Parish Council never rest on their laurels, they all strive to ensure Pembury get the best possible attention at all times. I thank them all so very much for their commitment and loyalty, unfortunately, this year Sean Cawley had to stand down due to pressure of work, he is very missed by the Council, we thank him, and his positive input to the team.

As this is my last ever report, I thank every Cllr from over the years for their hard work and you - the village who have always been such an inspiration to me. Thank you

**JUNE CROWHURST**

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017</b>	
Precept demanded from TWBC for 2016/17	£ 176,000.00
Income from other sources	£ 54,112.24
Balance brought forward 1 April 2016	£ 57,465.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 287,577.34</b>
Expenditure	£ 227,895.43
Balance carried forward 31 March 2017	£ 59,681.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 287,577.34</b>
<b>BREAKDOWN OF INCOME</b>	
Precept	£ 176,000.00
VAT Refunds	£ 15,627.59
Allotments	£ 918.00
Burials	£ 16,000.00
Club Rents	£ 3,003.00
Newsletter Adverts	£ 8,109.50
Musical Picnic	£ 327.49
Memorial Tree	£ 1,147.84
Fireworks	£ 2,194.39
Grants/Donations	£ 2,697.00
Utility Refunds	£ 231.76
Other	£ 3,855.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 230,112.24</b>
<b>BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE</b>	
VAT	£ 12,808.83
General Admin	£ 15,193.08
Wages	£ 79,043.35
Tax/NHI	£ 18,954.84
Pensions	£ 20,976.99
Chair's Allowance	£ 260.00
Property Repairs	£ 7,144.62
Machine Repairs	£ 2,252.43
Groundsmen Supplies	£ 3,275.20
Utilities	£ 13,185.77
Allotments, Burials, Enviroment	£ 22,702.02
Amenities, Christmas Lights, Pembury in Bloom, Public Relations	£ 22,032.09
PVN Editorial	£ 3,700.00
Mobile Phones	£ 719.13
Public Works Loan Board	£ 4,118.96
Section 137	£ 1,305.00
Other	£ 223.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 227,895.43</b>
Band D equivalent rate per annum 2016/17	£ 77.82