

Barby & Onley Parish Council Annual Report

April 2016 – March 2017

The current Parish Councillors are now half way through their 4 year term of office. Andy Sabine was elected as Chairman in May 2016 with David Blezard as Vice-Chairman.

In August Andy Sabine resigned as a Councillor as his wife was expecting twins and David Blezard took on the Chairmanship with Councillor Peter Downes as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Downes resigned as a Councillor in October 16 and Howard Vale took over as Vice-Chairman.

Two new Councillors have filled the vacant seats. They are Carol Weller and Bryan O'Reilly. Councillor Nigel Gove acted as Internal Financial Controller and has kept a close eye on the parish finances checking all payments against invoices each month and providing a lot of help with production of the budget.

There is now a Neighbourhood Development Plan in place for the parish which means that 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy which a Developer has to pay on new development within the parish will come straight to the Parish Council. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to put the Neighbourhood Plan in place.

The Parish Council is entitled to use the General Power of Competence which is a power of first resort brought in as part of the 2011 Localism Act. This gives the Parish greater powers to do anything that a normal person would be able to do.

Hopefully some of the aspirations raised as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process can be put in place to make the parish a better place to live.

Thanks to Ian Webb for his work as Newsletter and Website Editor and for upgrading to a more user-friendly layout.

Thanks also to Dom Fisher who acts as Highway Warden on behalf of the village. Mike Dalton who keeps the Vehicle Activated Sign charged up, and picks up lots of litter, and the footpath wardens who walk our village paths and report problem areas, and the young people who deliver the newsletter.

Precept was £ 43525 for year 2016/17 and will be £ 45,565 for 2017/18. This is an increase of 4.8% but the tax base is slightly lower this coming year as there are less people to contribute to Council tax in the parish so the overall effect of the precept increase is 5% (as shown on your Council tax bill) which represents an additional £4.36 per year for a Band D household.

What has your Council done this year?

PLANNING

The Parish Council has acted as a Consultee on 24 Applications in Barby, and 6 in Onley and 1 Appeal and lodged objections to Rugby Borough Local Plan and its inclusion of a site for a "Garden Village" of 1500 houses off A45 opposite Onley. Final decisions on planning lie with the District Council.

They have also lodged objections to a plan for 107 houses to be built at the end of Barby Lane.

In SEPT 2016 Neighbourhood Plan was made following a parish referendum.

ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENT

6 trees donated and planted at Onley

Wildflower seeds planted around Barby Flagpole

Metal Liner for bin on Ware Road replaced

Yellow berried Mountain Ash planted on Rectory Lane

Onley Park Residents Only” sign erected.

Onley Phone Box painted.

Registered an interest in “Dog Poo Meadow, Onley” and Service Road with Home Office
Footpath EC18 has been diverted around Onley Polo Grounds to allow for future construction of an additional arena.

Arranged for paving slabs to be installed in front of dog bins.

Arranged for South Northants Volunteer Bureau to bring Village Networks project with expertise for rural communities to the villages to provide advice on debt management and legal matters.

Arranged kerb-side weedkilling.

Attended a “Think Big Event” hosted by Northampton University to look at ways of helping people feel a sense of identity and belonging within their village and instill pride in the area.

Dog Poo campaign – highlighting problem areas with fluorescent spray

Arranged a Village Litterpick 19 March

PLAY AREAs and YOUTH

Obtained Skate Ramps for Onley Youth Club and a container funded via TLC to house it.

Obtained Basket Ball nets for Onley.

Cradle Swing parts purchased for Onley and installation arranged.

Arranged for the Bench to be repaired and replaced in Onley Play Area

Topped up woodchip in Barby Play Area with lots of help from members of the parish – Thanks!

Arranged repair of fencing along the boundary of Barby Sports Field.

Hole in Hedge in Barby Play Area has been fenced.

Arranged for Play Area hedges to be cut and hedge in front of tennis court

Leaning Goal Posts at Onley corrected.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Tried to improve parking at School drop off and pick up time with joint party meeting.

Installed a “No HGVs” sign for Castle Mound

Replaced cracked concrete column with LED street light and metal column in Ashleigh Close.

Campaigned against the loss of No 10 Bus Service from Onley Park

Arranged for the Speed limit around Cleves Cottages to be reduced to 40mph.

Arranged for HGV weight limit to be put in place along the Ridgeway/Longdown lane. (Signage awaited)

Arranged for Left hand road sign on Rectory Lane to be reinstated.

A Zebra crossing across Daventry Road is now on NCC list of expenditure for the future.

Arranged to take part in Speedwatch in an attempt to slow the traffic through the village.

Found out what 30mph signs over M45 bridges are for, and that we cannot remove them

Requested and obtained Mowing contribution from NCC and signed an agreement to continue to carry out the mowing.

Agreed to take on Litter Picking within the 30mph village limits from DDC

Got an agreement that NRHA will fund a “No Parking” sign at Mitchison Close

Arranged for overgrown hedge on Onley Lane to be cut back

We also - Obtained £500 grant towards upgrading Playground Equipment.

Arrangement of a loan for £40000 towards the upgrade of street lighting to LED bulbs. (This work is still in progress but will save a huge amount in energy bills)

Ensured Annual Return and annual VAT reclaim was submitted
Complied with Work place pension legislation.
Obtained maps and photos to complete a full parish tree library prior to arranging a survey.
Purchased and installed a Christmas tree, baubles and lights on Barby Green
Carried out a BUDGET and requested a precept from Daventry District Council rates department.
Found alternative phone provider to reduce phone bills.
Guided Onley Village Hall trustees into obtaining advice to ensure its continuation.
Funded Barby Village Hall wifi

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Parish Council financial year ends on 31st March. Barby & Onley accounts are particularly complicated as when the village of Onley Park was transferred to the Parish by the Home Office in 2005, a lump sum of £165,185 was also provided to cover maintenance of the Open Space land. This had to be ring-fenced for that purposed and can be used to cover mowing costs at Onley and various other costs associated with the Open Space.

At 31 March 2017 we had £119,841 of the Ring-fenced money left.

For year 1 April 16 to 31 March 2017

INCOME

Precept £ 43525 (this is the "Precept" amount collected through the rates by Daventry District Council for the parish)
Other £ 11202 (grants, bank interest, advertising income, and reimbursements from other Councils)

EXPENDITURE

Maintenance of Onley Open Space £ 5826 paid out of the ring fenced money.
All other expenditure is paid for from money raised through the rates, or from grants and referred to

as General Spend on the Bank Reconciliation sheet. During the last financial year the areas where money was spent can be broken down as follows:-

	£	%
Staff Salaries	£ 10100	22.9
Staff tax, NI and pension contributions)	4280	9.7
Expenses	1318	3.0
Street Lighting	6900	15.7
Mowing (excluding Mowing at Onley which is paid out of ring fenced funds)	4460	10.1
Sports Field Grant towards Mowing	2500	5.7
Newsletter Printing and Distribution (cost off-sett by Adverts of £ 873)	2024	4.6
Insurance Premium	1637	3.7
Rent of Play Area, Sports Field & Tennis Court (paid to Townlands Charity)	1486	3.4
Onley Park Youth Club	1382	3.1
Other (being balance)	7889	18.0
Total General Expenditure	43976	

Parish Council accounts are scrutinised annually by an independent verifier who checks the figures, and also ensure that the Council is operating correctly and has the necessary policies, insurance and risk assessments in place. To ensure we comply with Governance and Accountability legislation the accounts are also reviewed annually by BDO LLP based in Southampton who are appointed as external auditors.

Anyone wishing to see the books is welcome to do so by appointment with the Parish Clerk.