

REPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report & Accounts for the Year 2015/2016

The Annual Report & Accounts of Repton Parish Council is produced in line with the requirements of the Quality Council Accreditation Scheme. It contains a review by the Chairman, a report from the Clerk, and a summary Financial Statement for the year.

Chairman's Review

As Susan Reilly, the Parish Clerk reports below, only six residents stood for the 11 seats on Repton Parish Council in May 2015, which is a sad indictment for the village I love. We co-opted three further councillors and at the time of writing there are still vacancies.

I followed an extremely experienced and proficient Chairman in John Shortt who has served this village extremely competently as Chairman and Councillor for a number of years and remains a Councillor – he was an extremely hard act to follow in the Chair!

A large part of the Council's year has been spent on upgrading and improving facilities at the Monsom Lane Allotments. The plot-holders have formed themselves into Repton Allotments Society and there is quite a community spirit at the site. The Parish Council have drawn up agreements for the keeping of chickens, we have funded the clearance of land for composting bins, improved the paths, tap etc and we will continue to work with these gardeners of Repton to help them in their aims to improve the land.

I am sad to report no progress on the Council's effort to attract funding to upgrade and protect our ancient village cross. This South Derbyshire icon continues to succumb to the elements and heavy traffic constantly circling it. Another victim of austerity I fear.

The East Midlands Intermodal Park at Burnaston has geared up again so the Parish Council is considering the best strategy to deal with this, eg. Traffic count to begin with etc.

As everyone is aware, the residential developments off Milton Road, Longlands and Mount Pleasant Road are either completed or well underway despite strong objections from this Council on the inappropriate sites, insufficient facilities, impact on the village etc. We do appreciate the pressure the District Council is under from Central Government to build a large number of homes throughout South Derbyshire but these do not always appear to be on the most suitable sites. The Parish Council continue to object strongly on land identified in Part 2 of the Local Plan and to support in many ways the Repton and Milton Neighbourhood Plan led by Parish Councillor Ewan Thompson which will soon be a robust document to help us fight further development.

On a more positive note, Repton School working with County Councillor Martyn Ford and the Parish Council secured funding to enable the installation of two defibrillators for use by the School and Village (one at the Sports Centre and the other on the Sanatorium on High Street). These were funded from the DCC Community Leadership Fund.

Parish Councillor Skeith also sourced funding via District Councillor Peter Smith and the Safer Neighbourhoods Fund to upgrade and install new CCTV equipment on the Scouts Den and Mitre Field.

The Parish Council continues to support fundraising for a replacement Village Hall and donated a further £10,000 during the year bring the total PC donations to £73,000. A donation of £500 was also made to the United Reformed Church for their refurbishments.

The Parish Precept was only slightly increased this year (less than 2%) which is spent solely on maintaining and improving facilities within the Village.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to each and every one of my fellow Councillors; to Martyn Ford our County Councillor and Peter Smith and Michael Stanton our District Councillors. My greatest appreciation however, is for your Parish Clerk – I was aware of her knowledge, ability and commitment but did not realise the sheer scale of work she undertakes and range of tasks she deals with, always with a smile. She has been my single source of invaluable support throughout the year and it is no untruth when I say I genuinely could not have held the office of Chairman without her – Thank you!

Barbara McArdle, Chairman

Clerk's Report

Parish Council elections took place in May 2015 and whilst the Parish Council had 11 vacancies, only 6 local residents stood for election. Following co-option a further 3 Councillors were appointed and during the past year the Parish Council has operated with a reduced number of members. As the Parish Council made the decision to rotate the Chairmanship annually, Councillor Barbara McArdle was elected Chairman and brought a wealth of previous knowledge and experience to the role.

The purpose of the Parish Council is to serve the residents of the Parish and it should be remembered that the Councillors are volunteers who give their time freely and without receiving payment. Today, Parish Councils have a wide range of powers and the ability to raise funds through a precept, which forms a very small percentage of the Council Tax paid by local residents. Councillors do however have to work within an ever more regulated framework. Parish Council meetings are held monthly (except during August) and Parish meetings are held twice a year – March and September and local residents are welcome to attend any of these meetings. Prior to the official business commencing, members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions or make statements within a short period of time.

The Parish Council offers many regular services and events during the year including:

Review of Planning Applications: The review of recent local planning applications is an agenda item for each meeting and members of the public can freely express their views. The Parish Council has frequently expressed objections to many of the recent applications for development and is fully supporting the production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

School Summer Holiday Activities: The Parish Council is extremely pleased to be able to continue its provisions of summer play facilities for local young people. These continue to be organised in conjunction with South Derbyshire District Council and a range of activities are always on offer. The events take place on the Mitre Field and are free of charge for local young people; full details are advertised in the noticeboards; on the web page and in the jottings in the Parish Magazine.

Footpath Maintenance: Footpaths are an issue which regularly feature at our monthly meetings. If you have concerns about any footpath or the condition of a stile, we can report these matters, on

your behalf, to Derbyshire County Council. We also regularly maintain many of the local paths ourselves, due to an arrangement with the County Council.

Milton Meeting: Once a year, in September, the regular monthly meeting takes place in Milton. We welcome the opportunity to meet the local residents and offer them the opportunity to attend a meeting locally.

The Arboretum: The trees in the Arboretum have now become established and there is room for a further planting of a few trees this autumn. Should you wish to consider dedicating a tree to a loved one please contact me for further details.

Jottings in The Parish Magazine: Following our monthly meeting relevant issues are included in the Jottings in The Parish Magazine. These can inform local residents, who may be unable to attend the meetings, of local consultations, e.g. the review of the mobile library service, and of other significant items raised at the meeting.

Please call into the Parish Council office, Mondays 1.00 – 4.00pm or Wednesdays 2.00 – 6.00pm if you have any queries regarding local issues or if you are interested in further information regarding the activities of the Parish Council.

Susan Reilly, Clerk to the Council.

Financial Statement

<u>Year ended 31 March</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Balance brought forward	£49764	£61749
Annual precept	£14746	£14472
Total other receipts	£22659	£20131
Staff costs	£5760	£5620
Total other payments	£34801	£40968
Balance carried forward	£46608	£49764
Total fixed assets	£37642	£39682

August 2016

NAME OF SMALLER AUTHORITY: REPTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.234)
The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement <u>7TH SEPTEMBER 2016</u> (a)</p> <p>2. Notice of conclusion of audit and publication of accounts. The audit of the authority's accounts for the above year has been concluded on: <u>24TH AUGUST 2016</u> (date) by grant Thornton UK LLP. The Annual governance statement, Accounting statements and the External auditor certificate and report (the Annual Return), have been published (b)(c). Copies of documents are available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum. Documents will remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of this notice (d).</p> <p>3. Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 provides for the exercise of public rights to inspect the statement of accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Electors and their representatives have rights to make copies of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the accounting statements, • the external auditor's opinion and certificate of completion (e), • any public interest report relating to the authority, and • any recommendation relating to the authority. <p>For the year ended 31 March 2016 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to the person in paragraph 4 below.</p> <p>4. Person to which you can apply to inspect the accounts and availability (f)</p> <p>Name: <u>MRS S. REILLY</u></p> <p>Position: <u>CLERK</u></p> <p>Address: <u>NO HIGH ST.</u> <u>REPTON DEBS 6GD</u></p> <p>Tel no: <u>01283 701309</u></p> <p>Email: <u>reptoncouncil@btinternet.com</u></p> <p>Days and times of availability: <u>MONDAYS 1 - 4 PM</u> <u>WEDNESDAYS 2 - 6 PM.</u></p> <p>5. Signature and name of person giving Notice on behalf of the authority <u>MRS S. REILLY</u> Clerk and/or Responsible Financial Officer</p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of this Notice</p> <p>(b) Parish Councils should publish information on a website.</p> <p>(c) Parish meetings should display information in a conspicuous place in the area of the authority for at least 14 days.</p> <p>(d) See note 25.2 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for further information.</p> <p>(e) Section 3 of Annual Return provides the external auditors certificate and report including any subsequent pages attached.</p> <p>(f) Insert name, position, address and contact details such as telephone and email of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the above documents, and the details of the manner in which notice should be given of an intention to inspect the accounting records and other documents.</p>
<p>For more detailed guidance on electors' rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication Council Accounts – A Guide to Your Rights are available from the National Audit Office website https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2015/03/Council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights.pdf</p>	