

# FLECKNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

1st APRIL 2018 -  
31st MARCH 2019



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
*To provide leadership and vision and by working together with others, to make Fleckney a better place to live, work, study or visit.*

### Members and Officers of the Council:

	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	*Cllr. Suzanne Wyche	07801 768482    suzanne.wyche@gmail.com
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	*Cllr. Alan Birch <i>(Vice Chairman from May 2019)</i>	0116 240 3506
<b>Members:</b>	*Cllr. Stephen Bilbie <i>(Vice Chairman 2018/19)</i>	0116 240 4898    stephenbilbie@btinternet.com
	#Cllr. Jamie Brummel	0116 240 2366    stacyandjamie@live.co.uk
	Cllr. Josephine Dainton	<i>(Resigned April 2019)</i>
	*Cllr. Janet Earwaker	0116 240 2993    janearwaker@yahoo.co.uk
	#Cllr. Belinda Gilbert	07968 794346    bwathall@gmail.com
	Cllr. Jason Gilbert	<i>(Resigned August 2018)</i>
	Cllr. Christine Goosey	<i>Did not stand for election May 2019</i>
	*Cllr. Betty Haggerty	0116 240 3935    bet.haggerty@btinternet.com
	*Cllr. Tina McDonagh	0116 240 2275    t.mcdonagh@btconnect.com
	*Cllr. Lesley McKemey	0116 240 2184    charliemckemey@hotmail.com
	*Cllr. Charlie McKemey	0116 240 2184    charliemckemey@hotmail.com
	*Cllr. Steven Parker	0116 240 3511    stevenjparker@aol.com
	*Cllr. Callum Ward	07870 402426    cward@stconsult.co.uk
	#Cllr. Charmain Wood <i>*Re-elected May 2019</i> <i>*Elected May 2019</i>	0116 240 2776    charmainwood63@gmail.com
	<b>Officers</b>	
<b>Clerk to the Council:</b>	John Flower (P/T)	0116 240 4589    fleckneypc@btconnect.com
<b>Facilities Manager/</b>		
<b>Sports Development Officer:</b>	Jason Prescott (F/T)	0116 240 3755    fleckneyslc@btconnect.com

The Council also employs, on a part-time basis, two Premises Officers, a Relief Premises Officer, a Street Orderly, a Grounds Maintenance Operative and an Administrative Assistant.

**Postal Address:** Fleckney Parish Council, PO Box 8092, Fleckney, Leicester, LE8 8WW

**Website:** [www.fleckneyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.fleckneyparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @fleckneyparishc

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/fleckneyparishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/fleckneyparishcouncil)

**Parish Council Office (Sports Centre)**

Opening Hours:

9am to 1pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays

**Sports Centre**

Opening Hours:

9am to 10pm Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday

### How we met our objectives during the year:

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Some key achievements/activities during the year</i>
1. Opportunities for participation in recreation, sport, leisure, social and educational activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing additional play equipment in the Spinney at the Leicester Road Recreation Ground.</li> <li>• Table Tennis Club formed.</li> <li>• Providing and maintaining a Sports Centre, All Weather Pitch and football and cricket pitches.</li> <li>• Providing two recreation grounds.</li> </ul>
2. A healthy and active population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced a range of new activities for different sections of the community.</li> <li>• Running a variety of sport related holiday schemes.</li> <li>• Running an Energy Club for young people.</li> </ul>
3. A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to the Safer Partnership's request to identify priorities for policing in the Village.</li> <li>• Operating the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.</li> <li>• Proactively tackling dog fouling/fly tipping.</li> <li>• Regularly reviewing crime figures for the Village.</li> <li>• Engaging with Police when appropriate.</li> </ul>

4. An enhanced and sustainable local economy and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commenting on development proposals to ensure that they fit in with the character and rural nature of the Village.</li> <li>• Promotion of local businesses through advertisements at the Sports Centre.</li> <li>• Procuring goods and services from local suppliers.</li> </ul>
5. Appropriate, sustainable and affordable local housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking to ensure that any proposals for development are in keeping with the scale and character of the Village.</li> <li>• Working together with the community on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>• Commenting on planning applications as a statutory consultee.</li> </ul>
6. A local natural and built environment that continues to reflect the rural nature of the Village and the surrounding landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commenting on planning application where necessary to ensure development does not detract from and is in keeping with the rural nature of the Village.</li> <li>• Ensuring that development proposal do not adversely impact on heritage assets.</li> <li>• Continuing the development of the Spinney at the Leicester Road Recreation Ground as an amenity area with new planting, features and play equipment.</li> <li>• Provision of a Community Orchard.</li> <li>• Production of a Neighbourhood Plan.</li> </ul>
7. Appropriate, sustainable and affordable public transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being aware of changes to bus services and timetables and commenting and publicising as appropriate.</li> <li>• Providing and maintaining bus shelters.</li> </ul>
8. The promotion of local democracy, accountability, community involvement and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding regular Parish Councillor surgeries in the Village.</li> <li>• Filling vacant seats on the Parish Council by co-option to ensure it can run effectively and efficiently.</li> <li>• Actively publicising through the Communicata local issues and where appropriate seeking community support and involvement.</li> <li>• Being proactive in drawing to the attention of local residents the opportunity to become a parish councillor.</li> <li>• Publication of all meetings on the notice boards throughout the Village and on the Parish Council website.</li> <li>• Providing information on the activities of the Parish Council through its website and social media.</li> </ul>

**Chairman's Report – Cllr Suzanne Wyche:**

The Parish Council is made up of a group of volunteers who make decisions on behalf of the Village as the lowest tier of local government. In Fleckney we have a budget of approximately £200,000 per annum that comes from a proportion of the council tax, fees for use of the Sports Centre and grants. This income is used to maintain and enhance the Village.

The Council has 13 volunteer councillors as well as employing a number of paid staff.

The Council is responsible for managing the Sports Centre and the Leicester Road and Lodge Road recreation grounds. Other duties include keeping the Village free of litter, providing dog bins and allotments, responding to formal consultations and representing the Village in relation to planning applications and highways matters.

For the third year in a row planning has been a significant issue for the Village and the Council. A number of planning applications have been approved despite strong objections such as the 150 houses at Arnesby Road, 44 houses and 8 flats on the High Street and 24 houses at 61 Leicester Road.

Two documents will form the framework for controlling development of the Village in future. Firstly the Neighbourhood Plan, which deals specifically with the development of Fleckney, has been written, approved by Parish Council and submitted to Harborough DC. It will now undergo a further period of public consultation followed by examination by a planning inspector and finally will be subject to a local referendum later on in the year.

The second document is the new Local Plan, which has now been approved by Harborough DC, and controls development throughout the District.

In addition to the many hours of work spent on planning matters the Council has also supported organisations in the Village such as the Communicata and the History Society. We have also supported Section 106/Community Fund applications from the Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club, Band Hall and Village Hall.

We have carried out Community Speed Watch in the Village with help of volunteers. Useful information on speeding traffic is still being obtained from the mobile Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.

We are discussing highways improvements with LCC and have supported the proposal for double yellow lines on Main Street. November last year marked 100 years since the end of WW1 and in keeping with national plans to commemorate the event, the Council arranged for the poppies on lampposts, the silent soldier at the Library and the WW1 bench next to the Village Green. We also held the WW1 event on the Village Green that was well attended by those who wanted to mark the occasion.

Looking forward the main focus of our Village improvements relates to the Sports Centre. Since the feasibility study was carried out a number of visits have taken place to other similar facilities in other parts of the country to assess what has worked and what wouldn't suit our needs. We have been working with a company on design options and the preferred one is a new building with a sports hall with room for two badminton courts and a fitness gym. Next steps are to look at the detailed design, costs and funding.

There are two other items that we would like to improve in the Village over the next year:

Firstly, we have obtained a Community Fund grant for a Community Orchard at the Leicester Road Recreation Ground.

Secondly, we want to implement the improvements to the railings and the provision of a viewing platform on the Green side of the Duck Pond once approval is obtained. We will also be adding a water fountain to the Duck Pond to create a feature and aid aeration.

Finally, a big thank you to all my fellow councillors who give their time so freely for the benefit of the Village and to all the volunteers who work tirelessly for the many and varied voluntary organisations within the Village which contributes to maintaining its strong sense of community.

Suzanne Wyche  
Chairman,  
Fleckney Parish Council.

## A-Z of Achievements 2018-19:

- **Annual Report** - Produced and sent out to all households in the Village.
- **Audit of Accounts** - Received an unqualified opinion on the Parish Council's 2017/18 Annual Governance and Accounting Statements highlighting our commitment to good governance and financial practices.
- **Battle Over** - A Nation's Tribute - Held an event on the Village Green on 11th November 2018. "Silent Soldier" displayed at Library and WW1 seat installed next to Green on High Street.
- **Christmas Tree Festival** - Entered a tree in the St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival.
- **Community Safety Priorities** - Established local priorities for 2019/20 for the Community Safety Partnership.
- **Community Speed Watch** - Ran a campaign with the help of volunteers to reinforce the need to make roads safer by reducing vehicle speeds.
- **Consultations** - Responded to consultations on the Doctors Surgeries and the Harborough DC Local Plan.
- **Councillor Surgeries** - Held regular parish councillor surgeries to allow residents to raise issues, concerns, or to ask questions.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - Organised with 40 young participants taking part.
- **LED Lighting** - Installed LED lighting at the Sports Centre.
- **Energy Club** - Provided an after school club for young people promoting healthy living.
- **Fleckney Festival** - Hosted the 2018 event on the Leicester Road Recreation Ground and continuing to work with the organiser on this year's event to be held on Saturday 14th September 2019.
- **Grants** - Received for Play Equipment, Community Orchard, School Holiday activities, LED Lighting, Duck Pond Improvements and Sports Centre Feasibility.
- **Highways** - Supported Leicestershire CC proposal for double yellow lines on Main Street at its junction with High Street. Put forward a number of other improvement schemes for consideration
- **Holiday Scheme** - Provided a number of holiday and sport related children's holiday schemes during the year.
- **Leicester Road Recreation Ground** - Provided additional children's natural play equipment and log seat in the Spinney.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** - Continued to work with the Fleckney Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Village. Plan submitted to Harborough DC in June 2019.
- **Parish Councillors** - Jason Gilbert and Josephine Dainton resigned and Christine Goosey did not stand for re-election. All thirteen seats now filled following uncontested election in May 2019. New councillors are Jamie Brummel, Belinda Gilbert, Betty Haggerty and Charmain Wood.
- **Planning Applications** - Commented on planning applications as a statutory consultee and objected to a number where the development was felt inappropriate for the Village.
- **Priest Meadow Open Space** - Maintained area pending a long term solution being found with the owner.
- **Public Participation** - Allowed members of the public to speak at parish council meetings by providing a "public participation" item on all agendas.
- **Remembrance Day Service and Parade** - Purchased and displayed poppies on lighting columns in Village centre and on the route of the Parade and on the railings by the Duck Pond.
- **Sports Centre Building** - Considered the feasibility study relating to the improvement or replacement of the Sports Centre and decided to pursue the option for its replacement.
- **Sports Centre New Usage** - Hosted Physical and Wellbeing and Defibrillator events. Provided the venue for a Leicester City FC football school. New activities included Little Kickers, Choose to Move, Boogie Bounce and Walking Football. Taster activities included Exercise Dance, Dementia Session, Boot Camp and Tums and Bums.
- **Support for Local Voluntary Organisations** - Provided grants to Fleckney History Group, Communicata and the British Legion.
- **Table Tennis** - Club formed with 30 members. 5 teams in Leicester TT League and 1 in Daventry TT League. Runners up in Leicester Division 3. 2 teams in the Summer league.
- **Village Pond** - Secured Section 106 grant to provide a viewing platform on the Village Green side of the pond. Agreed to install a water fountain to create a feature and improve aeration.
- **Vehicle Activated Speed Sign** - Operational at four sites and providing useful information on volumes and speed of traffic entering the Village.
- **Website** - Sports Centre website further developed and social media being used more extensively to advertise activities.
- **Wrestling** - Four events took place in the Sports Hall all being a sell out.

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## Precept and Council Tax 2018-19:

The Parish Council at its meeting on 14th January 2019 agreed to increase its precept for 2019/20 by 1% to £135,050. This amount will be paid by Harborough District Council in two instalments to the Parish during the year and will be collected from residents in the Village as part of their Council Tax bill. The amount for a Band D property for parish purposes will be £87.67, an increase of 74p or 0.85%.

Overall, the Parish Council has budgeted to spend £256,110 in 2019/20 and is anticipating receiving £202,890 in income from the Precept, grants & contributions and charges for services and facilities. Further details are available on the Council's website.

## **The Parish Council is keen to let everyone know what we are doing and encourage people to keep in touch. There are some particular ways to do this:**

- Reading the Communicata and especially the Parish Council News & Views.
- 'Facebook': [www.facebook.com/fleckneyparishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/fleckneyparishcouncil) and [www.facebook.com/Fleckneysportscentre](http://www.facebook.com/Fleckneysportscentre)
- 'Twitter': [@fleckneyparishc](https://twitter.com/fleckneyparishc) and [@Fleckneysports](https://twitter.com/fleckneysports)
- Checking the Parish Council websites: <https://www.fleckneyparishcouncil.org.uk> (Parish Council), <https://www.hugofox.com/community/fleckney-sports-centre-14927/home> (Sports Centre) and <http://www.fleckneypn.org.uk> (Neighbourhood Plan).
- Looking at the Parish Council Notice Boards. *Notice Boards have been provided near the School on Batchelor Road; at the Car Park on High Street; at the Library and at the junction of Western Avenue and Saddington Road. The boards are available for display of Parish Council and community information (not commercial). To advertise an event, activity, etc., please drop posters (maximum size A4) into the Sports Centre, Leicester Road, LE8 8BG.*

Annual Accounts 2018-19:

Revenue Account		Year Ended 31st March 2018	Year Ended 31st March 2019	Year Ended 31st March 2018	Year Ended 31st March 2019	Year Ended 31st March 2018	Year Ended 31st March 2019
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Income		Expenditure		General Fund				
200.00	Administration	0.00	36,280.54	Administration	31,957.82	187,015.82	Balance at 1st April	211,907.69
12,193.67	All Weather Pitch	16,822.27	2,225.32	All Weather Pitch	4,373.64	220,813.46	Add Total Income	187,677.83
399.09	Allotments	411.10	0.00	Allotments	32.00	407,829.28		399,585.52
47,295.85	Grants & Contributions	8,810.50	64,722.18	Capital Expenditure	6,199.22	195,921.59	Deduct Total Expenditure	145,756.05
1,798.12	Interest on Investments	1,719.22	1,190.01	Dog Bins	759.16	<b>£211,907.69</b>	Balance at 31st March	<b>£253,829.47</b>
5,171.32	Leicester Road Recreation Ground	7,485.32	23,492.36	Facilities Manager/SDO	25,048.65			
1,236.74	Lodge Road Recreation Ground	400.05	7,655.36	Leicester Road Recreation Ground	14,982.70	201,907.69	General Reserves	233,829.47
0.00	Miscellaneous	785.00	13,692.42	Loan Repayments	13,692.42	10,000.00	Earmarked Reserves	20,000.00
8,737.00	Neighbourhood Planning	0.00	3,004.78	Lodge Road Recreation Ground	1,893.92	<b>£211,907.69</b>	Balance at 31st March	<b>£253,829.47</b>
3,350.20	Playing Field Charity Management	2,624.75	375.00	Members Expenses	385.95			
128,850.00	Precept	133,710.00	1,800.64	Miscellaneous	2,422.95			
403.45	Rents	400.00	9,982.70	Neighbourhood Planning	2,240.54	<i>As at</i>		
11,078.02	Sports Centre	14,509.62	5,727.71	Playing Field Charity Management	7,480.05	<i>31st March</i>		
100.00	Youth Club Building	0.00	21,723.92	Sports Centre	30,125.66	<i>2018</i>		
<b>£220,813.46</b>		<b>£187,677.83</b>	3,948.27	Street Cleaning	4,079.43	12,794.31	Current Assets	1,440.80
			100.38	Youth Club Building	81.94	2,289.15	VAT Recoverable	1,667.93
			<b>£195,921.59</b>		<b>£145,756.05</b>	176.66	Debtors	0.00
						209,415.58	Payments in Advance	260,527.36
							Cash in Hand	
						£224,675.70	Total Assets	£263,636.09

Less Current Liabilities	
7,375.41	Creditors
5,392.60	Receipts in Advance
<b>£211,907.69</b>	
<b>£253,829.47</b>	

Subject to Audit

Represented by:	
201,907.69	General Reserves
10,000.00	Earmarked Reserves
<b>£211,907.69</b>	
<b>£253,829.47</b>	