



# Annual Report May 2018



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## Parish Councils - the wider view

Parish Councils, when you're looking from here, are the first tier of local government. We've been here since 1894 - and still serving our local communities.

Local Councils (covering Parish, Town, Community etc) are often overlooked - but nationally spend over £500M of public money - with some spending nearly £3M. Histon & Impington are in the top 400-500 of 8,000 in England and Wales.

We now have a member on the board of CAPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils) the professional body for local councils. We are members of (and supported by) NALC - the National Association of Local Councils - and now have direct access because of our size. Two of our clerks, Angela and Chelsea, are members of the professional body for Parish Clerks - SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks).

NALC work hard at national levels - and more and more MPs recognise the contribution made by local councils. And, whilst "capping" is a major issue for County and District Councils, rumours that similar constraints will be applied to parishes have failed to come to fruition. As a result, local councils can continue to offer services that communities need.

*Denis Payne*  
*CAPALC representative*

## Environment Committee

The Committee meet every 6 to 8 weeks and discusses areas it is responsible for, including Allotments, Burial Ground, Open spaces and other assets that it looks after. Contracts are awarded to a Grass cutting Contractor and Tree Care Specialists.

The largest project reaching fruition is the replacement of the old wooden fence along Homefield Park that faces Water Lane (B1049) with metal ranch type fencing.

There are several Working Parties and organisations that feed back to the Environment Committee as follows:-

### The Brook Enhancement working Party

During the past year contractors were invited to tender for The Brook Improvements with ideas of how the area may be improved aesthetically and to aid water flow. One contractor was selected and they first carried out a silt survey. Since then we have met with SCDC, who have said they would clear most of the Silt this coming Autumn if the Parish Council were to share with the cost. This would be a financially better way forward, as more of the allocated funds could then be better utilised to look at other improvements / enhancements. A local resident who has recently moved into the village and has expertise in this subject has joined the small working party.

### Drainage Working Party

This group of people who have good knowledge of local drainage, meet periodically to look at water flow from the Hinterland, through the village and out towards Girton/Oakington. The Local Authority is looking to improve the flow from Harding Way area in Park Lane and several options are being considered following surveys carried out earlier this year. This has been convened by myself until now!

### Enviro.Volunteers

This group meet periodically on a Saturday morning, to do a variety of work in The Copse, Homefield Park, The Cemetery, Clay Close Lane Pocket and other Parish areas. Pene Nudds has organised this group for several years and

has good support from residents. It is supported by the Parish Council who provide them with Public Liability Insurance and equipment and sundry expenses.

### **The Big Tidy Up Group**

This group started in 2012 and meets quarterly, where residents tackle litter in the village. It is joined by well established groups of The WI and Impington litter pickers. The Parish Council provide the volunteers with equipment and sundry expenses and are covered by the PC Public Liability Insurance. This is managed by myself and I will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

### **The Adoption Scheme Group**

Out of the B T U, was born the Road Adoption scheme, where residents litter pick their road or area at regular intervals at times that suit them. They also look out and report on such things as Potholes, blocked road gullied, fly posting, fly tipping, condition of the road names plates and any overhanging vegetation issues. The Group now has over 100 members plus organisations and two companies from The Vision Park. Some 97% of the village is covered by the scheme. Again it is supported and covered by the PC Public Liability Insurance. This is managed by myself and I will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

### **Histon & Impington Community Orchard (HICOP)**

The Community Orchard, who sub lease an area of land in Manor Field from the Parish Council, have Co-Opted Dan Mace on the Environment Committee to report on HICOP matters who has recently agreed to join the Environment Committee on the new council. The Parish Council will consider financial support when requested for defined maintenance work, such was the case recently for ground matting at the entrance to the Orchard.

### **High Street & Beyond Working Party**

This group is made up of Parish Councillors and Residents and looks at ways to improve the area and to encourage Traders to work together for the common good. One example of the Working Party's initiative is to encourage High Street businesses to have a Planter outside their business to Green up the High Street. This is well in hand and the results will be seen from May. It is hoped to extend this initiative to Station Road and the Butchers shop at the top of Windmill Lane.

### **Weeding Group**

This group was set up in the Summer of 2017 and meets monthly to tackle weed problems in our streets. This small group consists of Councillors and Residents and to date have tackled and improved about 10 hot spots. This is organised by myself and I will continue to do so for the time being.

### **Open Spaces Workshop**

This Group consisting of Parish Councillors and Dan Mace have been looking at all the green spaces that are wholly owned by the Parish Council, and have produced a 5 year plan of what it is hoped can be achieved. This will be published within the Parish Council in due course.

### **Public Art Working Party**

This Group looks at specific projects, for example renovating the old Telephone Box in Milton Road. Elaine Farrell is driving this initiative and it is hoped this will be realised in the months ahead. It is planned to use this to display local public art.

The proposed siting of the Glaze Pavilion for Homefield Park now has planning permission, so it is envisaged this will now move forward. It is envisaged this Pavilion will be used for performing arts etc.

## **Crossing Keepers Hut**

A group of Councillors who met at the site in April for the first time to look at ways to improve the Hut and adjoining area and to improve security. Lots of ideas came out of this meeting including ways the area may additionally be used for community use.

*Cedric Foster*

*Chairman, Environment Committee*

## **Highways Committee**

A recurring theme of these Highway Reports is the long timescales involved in projects. From the inception of a project through to completion can easily be five years, even for a relatively minor change. It is as such again this year.

Having picked up the reins again after a year stepping back (the role is term limited), pretty much all the same projects were still ongoing:

- The highlight for the year was a project at the Baptist Church area coming to fruition. The scheme has received a lot of positive comment, with the impact of the works minimised by them being done in the School Summer Holidays. By careful monitoring an opportunity was seized to improve the scheme during the works, adding now well used dropped kerbs from the War Memorial to the Thatched cottage.
- The project to improve footpaths, around the villages, driven by my successor and predecessor is nearing fruition.
- The much discussed and anticipated cycle stands may finally be on their way, having only taken about five years.
- A development of a Parking Policy, informed by 2013's Highways Vision is being developed
- Plans to improve the junction at The Green are under discussion, having won funding back in 2014/15. This has now become the aggregation of three different projects and pots of money.
- A second phase of works at the Baptist Church has had funding secured through the Local Highways Initiative (2018-19), and the project is about to kick off.
- Having discussed many different approaches to the northern section of Station Road, when told they needed to because of the Junior School expansion, the County Council came forward with a scheme to widen sections of pavement at key points.
- The Committee agreed to help the Community SpeedWatch group to acquire equipment.

Another recurring theme has been potholes. This has been a particularly harsh winter bringing both lots of potholes including some very large ones though the problem is nationwide. Whilst they have been dealt with once reported, sometimes this has been slow, and sometimes the repairs have not lasted. There is a concern that money is spent fire fighting rather than preventatively.

Finally the effects of the major A14 widening scheme is now being felt in the villages (and beyond) by the brutal and sudden removal of (all the) trees from around the junction. Having written the Parish Council's responses to the consultations on the widening (and the previous smaller Pinch Point scheme) over the last seven years the issues now being raised were all being foretold then. It looks like in the meantime the scheme regressed from what was proposed and agreed. We look to assurances given at the time, including by the Roads Minister himself, that mitigation steps will be provided.

*David Legge*

*Chairman, Highways Committee*



## Planning Committee

The Planning Committee have met 20 times this year.

We considered 50 (51 last year) plans for Impington, 67 (58) for Histon and 4 (1) others - Cottenham and Darwin Green (the development between the B1049 and Huntingdon Road). Of these, we recommended approval of 80, refusal of 20, no recommendation for 7, 12 were for information only.

We have shown a keen interest in the developments at the Amey Waste Management Park in Waterbeach and the proposal to develop a new waste recovery treatment facility using combustion technology. We are expecting a further round of environmental consultation during which we will be evaluating the proposed impact on the villages.

We did not comment on the Council's own application for the glaze pavilion in Homefield Park.

The Station Area applications (Bishops, Histon Station and the Clark Brothers' yard) have still not been decided at SCDC. We are assured that progress is being made - but have yet to reach SCDC's Planning Committee for "determination".

Similarly, the Local Plan (which includes a strategic view of the District) is also delayed - with no clarity of when it will be in place. Whatever, their first review of the plan will start next year - and will be of a joint Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire plan.

And finally, SCDC have withdrawn the current proposals for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - there was an increasingly clear need for review - and this will now be done before, rather than after, implementation.

The Parish Council is a consultee on all planning matters affecting the parishes. The Planning Committee makes a *recommendation* based on the plans provided. The final decision is with South Cambridgeshire District Council. When responding, the Committee tries to ensure that character and local history is maintained. Key issues often raised are parking provision, character of the street and loss of amenity to neighbouring properties (this often means loss of light). We are also committed to affordable housing - though often can do little to ensure that we get it. Where possible we have ensured that the Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that will improve the situation. The Committee has seen an influx of applications (7 this year) of garage conversion to living accommodation and the building of annexes in gardens.

All meetings are open to the public. We welcome both applicants and those with views on applications to attend meetings and take part. If a planning application affects you, we encourage you to make your views known to the planning authority, SCDC (South Cambridgeshire District Council) and the Parish Council.

As part of our commitment to work with applicants, we have had confidential meetings with a number of developers looking at possible schemes within the community. Wherever possible, and with the agreement of all parties, we will share early information with the community. This has already been done with the High Street retail complex proposal.

It has again been a very busy year for the team of Councillors responsible for commenting on these plans: Denis Payne (Chair), Marian Cleaver, Brian Ing, Josephine Teague, Aga Cahn, Nick Wood, Simon Jocelyn (Deputy Chair), Steve Carrington and Elaine Farrell.

I would like to record my thanks to Committee members for their contributions and regular attendance at meetings. In addition, thanks are due to Chelsea O'Brien, Clerk to the Committee, for her commitment to ensuring everything runs smoothly.

*Denis Payne*  
*Chairman, Planning Committee*

## Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee continues to operate smoothly and effectively with the support of staff and sports clubs.

The Committee continues to support a wide range of sporting activities, encourages wellbeing and recreation, providing quality facilities on the recreation ground for use of all. It is a priority for the Committee with the manager and groundsman to oversee the smooth day to day running of recreation spaces including South Road play area and the play area on The Green

We inspire to continue this standard effectively and efficiently with the support of the Parish council, Friends of the Rec and all the clubs.

Sport, wellbeing and play are a major contribution to good health for the many that use the facilities on the recreation ground.

The entrance to the Recreation Ground has changed with the new height barrier being installed along with the new speed bumps.

Improvements to the Community Room include new tables and chairs, installation of a useful projector and upgrade of the wi-fi which is already attracting new users.

The Community Park Project is underway, this year has seen the formation of a Sub Committee to progress the options for the site. A **great** thank you to Neil Davies for his tremendous effort, we look forward to events over the next coming years.

The Play area on the recreation ground is used consistently along with the play areas on The Green and South Road; the equipment is updated when required, South Road having had a new roundabout last Autumn, the rec area having replacement steps to the mound, soft play and a good hair cut!

Thanks goes to all Staff, the Committee, Friends of the Rec and Sports Clubs for making this one of the best facilities in the area.

Lastly congratulations to Alex on completing his apprenticeship and taking up the challenge of a new fixed term contract.

*Steve Carrington*  
*Recreation Committee Chairman*

## Histon & Impington Mobile Warden Scheme

The Mobile Warden Scheme is designed to help older people who may need some support, to live at home independently, for as long as possible. The warden keeps in contact with clients by regular visits and phone calls. She helps in practical ways, such as shopping or collecting pensions, giving help with forms or putting them in touch with other agencies. She also provides much needed personal and moral support.

This scheme is working well in our villages. It is funded by contributions from the County Council, SCDC, the Parish Council and the contributions paid for the service by the clients. It is managed very efficiently for us, at the moment, by Age UK.

We are very fortunate in still having Mrs Gillian Berry, a village resident, as warden. She has a good working relationship with Jean Newman, the Older Persons' Co-Ordinator, the Firs House surgery and those who run the Mini-bus and the Day Centre. This means that she is often informed of people who might need her services. Others learn of

the scheme by word of mouth. At the moment she has twenty two households under her care. Despite a long and, at times, very cold winter there were fewer critical issues during the colder weather.

Bed-blocking, is still a problem at Addenbrooke's and there were incidents of patients sent home with insufficient warning and inadequate care in place. There are still some Care Agencies, and Care Homes, who will not now take on care of clients who are funded by Social Services as the Local Authority grant does not fully cover costs. This adds to the problems of setting up adequate care packages before patients can be released from hospital. At times patients have been sent home before adequate care has been arranged. The situation can only get worse as the number of vulnerable older people who need financial assistance for their care, increases.

The Histon and Impington scheme account still has a balance which allows for an increase in clients to a maximum of twenty five. As this balance has been decreasing year on year, it has been necessary for the Parish Council to increase its contribution for the current year. We have budgeted for an increase again for 2018-2019. SCDC have decided that there should be a small increase in the Client fee to ensure there is a fair distribution of costs across the whole county. It is clear that numbers of those needing the service are rising, gradually, but steadily and it is unlikely that two wardens would be funded by the scheme. We should be aware, that if the need for a second warden arises, we might have to meet the increased costs ourselves.

The Link Committee for the scheme is comprised of the Age UK Co-ordinator, the Mobile Warden, the Older Persons' Co-ordinator, two representatives of the Parish Council and two village residents. The Committee meets twice a year to monitor the scheme.

*Marian Cleaver*

*Mobile Warden Scheme Representative*

## **Poor's Land Charity (Histon and Impington Town Charity)**

The Parish Council nominates three trustees to serve for a four-year period on this charity that has been in existence for more than three hundred years. Its major asset is 3.67 acres of land in Cottenham Road that, originally used for farming, has been used since the 1890's for allotments.

A bequest from a Mrs. Esme Bumpstead in 1999 enabled the charity to expand its remit in 2004 from its traditional role of "helping widows born in Histon" to that of "helping residents of Histon and Impington who are in need, hardship or distress". The amount currently available for distribution each year is in the range of £3 -£4,000, which therefore normally precludes large single donations. However, the trustees have used the funds in recent years to help organisations that also work in these areas, as well as supporting individuals requests.

During this reporting period the trustees completed the registration with the Land Registry of the major part of the land owned. Unfortunately, over time, a small part of the land on one of the boundaries has been appropriated by the owners of a neighbouring property. The legal costs of reasserting the Charity's rights to this land, as enshrined in the 1806 Enclosure Act, are not insignificant and the trustees are still weighing up their options on this matter.

The trustees have debated for some time that the name of the charity, which includes the word "Poor", may have put people off from applying for help, albeit that the 1649 indenture of land apparently refers to "the land in Poor's Close in Little Barn Field". As a result the Charity recently voted to change its name to the Histon and Impington Town Charity. Although acknowledging that most residents wish to see the community retain its village status, the use of the word "Town" harks back to when the charity was formed and retained up to at least the 1820's as a way of distinguishing the charity from others set up to be run by the Church. In fact you may know a number of other villages in the area that also have "Town" charities.

Prior to the introduction of Parish Councils in the late 1800's, the trustees appear to be the church wardens and overseers and the Parish Council only became part of the process, by invitation, in the early 1900's. At the time I

became Chair of Histon Parish Council it was traditional for the chairman to co-chair the charity. The scheme rules now state that the Parish Council must nominate three trustees. It has been my privilege to serve as a trustee for over eighteen years now and I believe that the charity still has a worthwhile role to play in our community.

*Max Parish*

*Trustee, Histon and Impington Town Charity*

## Chairman's Annual Report May 2018 – as presented at the APM's 14 May 2018

This is my first report as Chairman and it will look to discuss the previous year's activities and some of my thoughts for the future. As with previous Chairman's reports I'm conscious not to duplicate any Committee Chair's inputs so I will discuss the general community wider activities.

It's been an interesting 2017/18 and one in which I have personally looked inwards within the PC, but one that has been busy out in the community and here are some of my highlights (or lowlights in some cases):



**Firstly**, seeing our community on national television in Channels 4's Village of the Year programme. It was a very proud moment seeing how beautiful the villages looked during the summer time and, of course, making the semi-final was a bonus.

It was a great advert for community spirit and togetherness with the Feast event rightfully taking centre stage. Like some I felt it only showed off a fraction of what we have to offer and what goes on and we could

have had the whole programme to ourselves.

This has resulted in a greater enthusiasm within the community for improvements, particularly with the High Street. In the near future, with support of the business owners, planters will be added to the High Street, which I'm sure will make a great visual impact.

**Secondly**, the widening of the A14 has caused another very visual (negative) impact on the entrance to our village(s) resulting from the overnight felling of the tree line adjacent to the A14. This issue does have an impact on local houses, businesses and residents in close proximity to the road with an increase in traffic noise and potential increase in pollution levels as the levels of traffic increase. The expansion of the A14 between Girton and Milton (the stretch which directly affects HI) is part of a £1.5 billion project being implemented to meet the demands of tomorrow (and some would say today). This may be seen as essential in supporting the future growth of Cambridge, but at what cost will it have to our community and way of life?



For me communication is key in these types of situations, unfortunately in the first instance this does not seem to have happened. However, I was pleased to have been present at a meeting with Highways England (HE) and a large resident turn-out, which allowed a number of questions to be answered and issues aired. Following the meeting a resident lead group was set up, with support from Parish and County Councillors to help keep the pressure on HE, ensuring communication is maintained, environmental issues addressed and noise concerns fixed. The A14 Action Group has brought together not only residents which this directly impacts, but residents who have professional expertise in areas of concern, and that's something I like about this community - people just want to help make this community a better place to live.





**Thirdly**, construction has started on the junior school extensions, and it can now be seen appearing over the hedgerow. These are exciting times, knowing the children of the future will have access to the latest facilities for many years to come. Apart from the planning process, access issues to the site were highlighted and as a result the path along one side of Station Road will be widened to make walking safer and more convenient.

**Fourthly**, the Community Park project has moved onto the next stage within the process. In November, the PC agreed to enter into an agreement of understanding with the land owners and Flagship Homes. This now allows the PC to work with the other stakeholders to understand viability of the project and potential community facilities. This project is an exciting opportunity for this community to address a number of key issues which we face, including the lack of affordable housing and open community space.

**Finally**, the Neighbourhood plan has progressed this year and has seen the draft report reviewed by South Cambs District Council. This is a critical part of the process and one that will hopefully see it approved by the Inspectorate and accepted by the community. This document will provide guidance on planning and land use within the community, which will ultimately help control the types of development we will see and want.

#### **Looking forward:**

We currently have not seen plans for the proposed new school on Buxhall Farm, however they are expected in the near future (early June). Concerns within the community exist over access and additional traffic on the B1049 and smaller side roads, these will of course be raised and addressed during the planning and consultation phase.

We still have a problem with anti-social parking in and around our village(s), typically around our schools and amenities. These are often experienced during peak times and result from a “Just a minute” culture and it’s that mentality which will be hard to break or change. Commuters and work traffic also play a role in causing local traffic issues. The Highways Committee will be developing a parking policy/strategy which will seek to address the current known issues and reduce future problems.

**To conclude**, it has been a busy year with a number of projects gathering pace in particular the school developments and Milton Road Community Park and with the Neighbourhood plan and A14 work continuing through 2018 and beyond. Seeing the enthusiasm and energy created within the community (mainly on social media) resulting from the Village of the Year processes, and the passion shown by residents resulting from the A14 work (it’s a shame about the circumstances). However it does encourage me that we do live in a village with residents who care about, not only their own issues but those of the whole community. Ensuring facilities, amenities, environment etc. are sustained or improved now and for future generations. I now see it as a task for the PC to work out how best to harness this spirit so the service we provide or support can flourish in the future.

This is also my chance to say a big thank you to all Councillors for their hard work and dedication over the last 2 years of this Council. I would also like to thank their families and friends for providing support (often unseen) during this period as the time given up by Councillors sometimes goes beyond the call of duty.

A part of a new Council term is that Councillors get a chance to review their personal situations and choice not to stand for re-election. I would like to take the opportunity to thank those Councillors who are leaving (not standing) namely Nick Wood (joined May 2014), Tim Ewbank (Joined May 2016) and Helena Perry (Joined May 2017) for their hard work and dedication to the role. However, I would like to single out Cedric Foster who has chosen to stand down after 11 years’ service. I personally owe Cedric a lot as he is the person who introduced me to Council life and I will personally miss his support and enthusiasm. His work with Highways and Environment will be certainly missed, but I’m reassured that he will be continuing with a number of his roles and voluntary groups that he manages so well.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you Angela Young for her support and guidance in my first year as Chairman, it’s very much appreciated. I would also like to say thank you to Lynda Marsh, Chelsea O’Brien and the ground staff, Steve Campin, Trevor Smith and Alex Hale for all their hard way and dedication to the job and our community. Further to

this congratulations to Chelsea for her promotion to Deputy Clerk and Alex for completing his apprenticeship and becoming a full time member of staff.

*Andrew Butcher*

*Chairman, Histon & Impington Parish Council*

# **INTERIM END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2017-18**

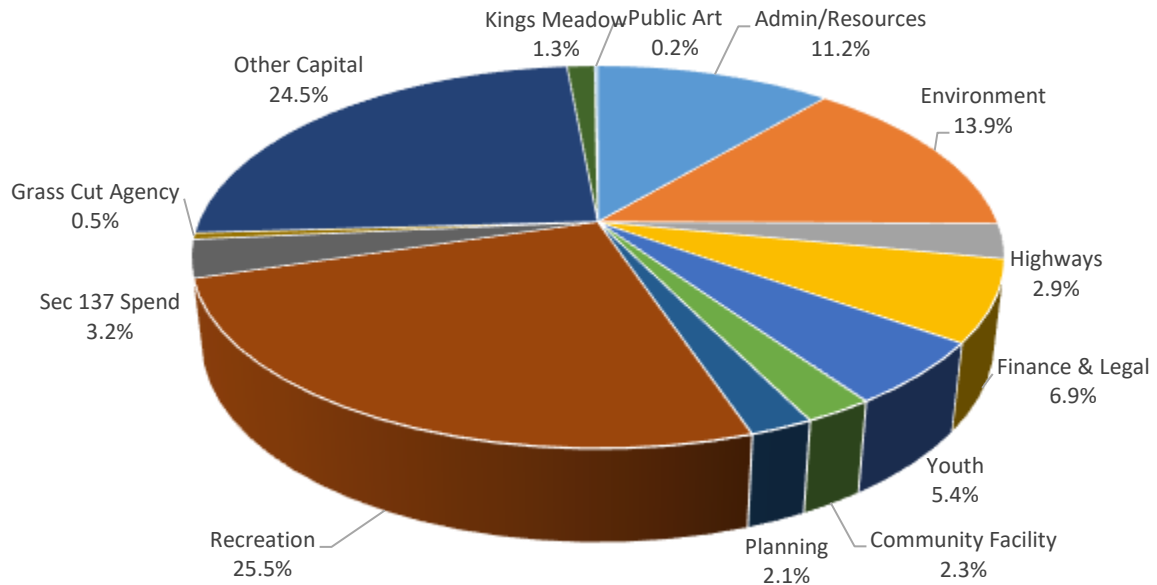
Expenditure		Income	
Admin/Resources	45,453	Precept	318,351
Environment	56,506	Interest	8,633
Highways	11,948		
Finance & Legal	27,803	Grants	483
Youth	22,025	Other income	<u>60,742</u>
Community Facility	9,425		
Planning	8,660		
Recreation	103,308		
Sec 137 spend *	12,950		
Grass cut agency**	2,207		
Other capital	99,256		
Kings Meadow	5,277		
Public Art	639		
	<b><u>405,457</u></b>		<b><u>388,209</u></b>
(Interim bal figure)			694
Bal		Bal brought	
carried forward	818,608	forward	835,162
		Surplus for year	-16,554
	<b>818,608</b>		<b>818,608</b>
VAT owed	5,606	VAT received 16-	23,508
(17-18)		17)	

***N.B. Subject to finalising for audit 2017-18. Balances as at 31.3.18 £818,608***

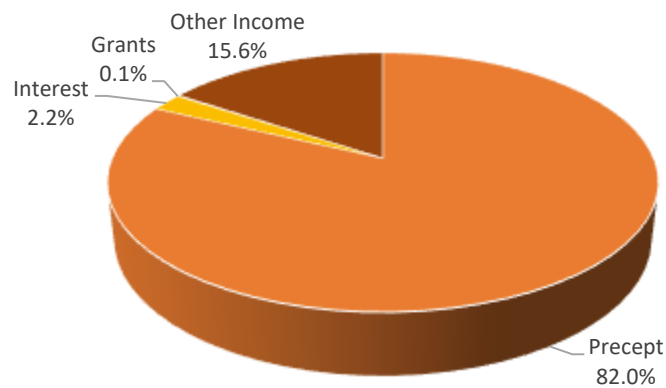
\*S137 spend is a power for the Council to provide other things not otherwise authorised for the benefit of some or all of its parishioners. A financial constraint is in place of no more than £7.57 per elector and the council must ensure that the benefits must be commensurate with the expenditure. During 2017-18 payments of donations or grants were made to:

Royal British Legion	£100
Histon & Impington Warden Scheme	£1,000
Older Person's Co-Ordinator	£4,500
Day Centre	£350
Mental Health WellBeing Worker	£7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£12,950</u></b>

### Histon & Impington Parish Council Expenditure 2017-18



### Histon & Impington Parish Council Income 2017-18



**\*\*Grass cut agency services** – the amount provided by County Council towards grass cutting – agency services must be listed separately in Parish Council accounts. The remainder of the grass cutting spend is listed under Environment.

The Parish Council services a series of loans taken out to fund the development at the Recreation Ground from 2005. These loans will be fully paid off in 2030 if the Council does not consolidate within that time frame. The payments this year for all loans amounted to £34,870.

**Based on the figures above** the Council is showing a carried forward sum of £818,608 into 2018-19 of which £343,249 is earmarked for specified projects including maintenance and replacement funds; facilities improvements; skatepark provision and highways improvements.

There are also sums of £191,472 in a Section 106 fund, which is funding provided by developers which must be spent on specific projects within a 10 year time frame, whether on community facilities, open space provision, Public Art or maintenance of open spaces.

This leaves a general reserves fund of £283,887. The advice from Auditors is to maintain a general reserves fund of at least 50% of annual precept, which this year would be £174,050.

Carried forward	£818,608
Specified projects	£343,249
Section 106 funding	<u>£191,472</u>
<b>General Reserves Fund</b>	<b><u>£283,887</u></b>
<b>Pending adjustments re VAT etc</b>	

The precept this year for Histon and Impington is for £348,101 and has increased by 9.4%, an extra 17p per week on the Parish element of the Council Tax on a Band D property. Our revenue budget largely matches the amount requested for precept. The Council's plans for **capital projects may need to be part funded from the general reserves** amount. Of course, these may not all come to fruition and a policy is currently being implemented on Capital Spend processes.

Our main sources of income are from the Parish Precept (the parish part of the Council Tax bill provided by South Cambs District Council), facilities charges including the Recreation Ground, Burial Ground fees, allotment fees, grants and hire of open spaces. We are also keen to obtain grant funding where available, and are lucky to be recipients of donations from the H&I Friends of Rec, who run a variety of community events and fundraisers in the village, as well as an ever growing choice of classes in our Community Room such as the Stroke Recoverers Group and Chair Based Activity Class, and Table Tennis, Tai Chi classes, Memory & Co-Ordination Group and Dance & Fitness Class

We received a grant during the year of £483 from the Playing Out Scheme of which £47.08 remains. There is also a remaining balance from previous grants for the Sustainability Group of £631.68. All grant funding for these items was paid direct to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council increasingly realises that services are going to be devolved down to the Parish Council from higher authorities who are being forced to cut their own budgets. The Council believes it is, and needs to be, in a healthy position to enable any such funding to be available for services which are seen to be imperative to our residents as a whole. We have earmarked a budget heading under "Community Services" for this purpose.

The Parish Council employs 6 members of staff:

**Full Time:**

Head Groundsman, Steve Campin  
Deputy Clerk, Mrs Chelsea O'Brien  
Grounds Operative, Mr Alex Hale

**Part Time:**

Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs Angela Young  
Office Manager and RFO, Mrs Lynda Marsh  
Assistant Groundsman, Mr Trevor Smith

The Council's audit will be carried out by PKF Littlejohn LLP at the end of June 2018. If you wish to inspect the audit papers these are available at all reasonable times, by appointment, from 4 June until 13 July 2018

Photographs used in this report were supplied by Barry Starling, Geoff Grayton and Angela Young