

Report of the Chair of Drayton Bassett Parish Council April 2024

Last May Cllr Avril Edmond stepped down as Chair but we are very pleased that she has stayed on as a councillor. We are grateful to her for her long service to the council and her wealth of knowledge. I have now taken over as Chair. We have appointed three new members to the council - David Davies, who is Vice Chair, Adrian Stockil and David Biggs so, for the first time in a while, we have a full council. In May we were pleased to have Hilary Goodreid join us as clerk. The parish council has benefitted greatly from her advice and guidance.

The last twelve months have been a busy time for the parish council. This time last year we had just heard that, after completing a lengthy application form, we had been awarded a grant from HS2 of £75,000 to fund the rejuvenation of the village park. Work started in May and most of you will have seen the improvements that have been made – tennis court completely refurbished, footpath constructed, new play equipment and flower beds. We have been encouraged by the compliments paid by residents and to see the pleasure they are getting from the improvements. We see this as an ongoing project, with more areas being developed in the future.

In June we formed a Friends of the Park group, who have been invaluable in helping with work in the village park and around the village. Two hundred tons of topsoil were moved to the new flower beds, which have been planted out and are coming into fruition. Bird boxes have been put up around the village and planters on grass verges. To date over 250 volunteer hours have been given to work in the park.

We have maintained a good relationship with Balfour Beatty Vinci, especially Matt Price, their engagement officer, who has come along to several parish council meetings to update us on the work on HS2. They have donated a bench, planters, birdboxes and topsoil and carried out tasks around the village including litter picking.

The heritage board on the historic site in Old Manor Close was officially unveiled in July. The ceremony was attended by residents, schoolchildren and academics. Following this event, artefacts found at the time of the excavations were put on display in the WI Hall, with many people coming along to look at them.

Cllr Rosemary Bridge has successfully set up a Community Speedwatch Group that regularly monitors traffic coming through the village. The aim of this group is to encourage motorists to drive carefully through the village.

This year we are again entering the Staffordshire Best Kept Village Competition. Cllr David Davies has submitted our entry, and we await the judges' visits in May and June. Children from the village school are entering the poster competition and you will see some of their work displayed on the park gates. Let's hope we can improve on the commended award that we had last time we entered.

The council tries to keep in touch with residents and have improved the council's website, regularly post on Facebook and now submits articles in the Village Voice column of the Tamworth Herald.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow councillors, the clerk and the residents who regularly assist, for their help and support over the last twelve months. It has been much appreciated.

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Drayton Bassett Parish Council Financial Report for 2023-2024

EXPENDITURE		Actuals for 2022/2023	Actuals for 2023/2024
Administration	Wages	4,083.00	3,224.16
	HMRC	-	805.80
	Business Rates	1,622.00	1,702.84
	Water Rates	152.00	132.99
	Electric	510.00	252.37
	SAGE payroll	84.00	111.60
	Website / IT	469.00	734.67
	Stationery / printing / post	80.00	69.65
	Insurance	646.00	699.83
	Training	271.00	60.00
	Membership fees	309.00	388.38
Community halls		-	-
Recreation Grounds	Grasscutting x 13	4,975.00	6,300.00
	Extra Cuts	-	96.50
	Pavilion	275.00	-
	Plants and Planting (summer)	-	695.00
	Plants and Planting (winter)	-	1,095.00
	Hedges and tree work	7,390.00	900.00
	Dog Bins (LDC)	293.00	322.40
	Pest Control	200.00	-
	General Maintenance	8,208.00	65.48
	Redevelopment Village Park	650.00	3,464.94
	Village Green	8,372.00	-
	Tennis Court Development	-	34,175.00
	Circular path	-	20,099.20
	Interpretation Board	-	815.60
	Heritage Board	-	360.00
Footpaths/lighting/maint		-	-
Best Kept Village		28.00	-
Play Equipment			15,555.85
Election Expenses			-
Donations			160.00
Audit Fees		155.00	381.17
CIL expenses			497.53
Other		40.00	193.43
VAT		2,822.33	15,319.20
Total Expenditure		41,634.33	108,678.59

INCOME			
Precept		25,628.00	26,384.00
HS2 Grant			75,000.00
VAT refund		905.00	18,104.51
Donations / Hire of hall		1,445.00	480.56
Total Income		27,978.00	119,969.07

Opening balance on 1st April 2023		12,199.19
Total Expenditure		108,678.59
Total Income		119,969.07
Closing Balance on 31 March 2024		23,489.67