

Necton Parish Council

Annual Report

April 2016 to March 2017

Our Councillors

 <p><i>David Matthews</i> Chairman 01760 441356</p>	 <p><i>Frank Woodward</i> Vice-Chairman 01760 722110</p>	 <p><i>Ian Thompson</i> 01760 720000</p>	 <p><i>Denise Axham</i> 01760 441238</p>
 <p><i>Joe Sisto</i> 01760 722168</p>	 <p><i>Phil Hayton</i> 07979 510032</p>	 <p><i>Jean Bass</i> 01760 441391</p>	 <p><i>Fraser Bateman</i> Joined April 2017 07967 398010</p>

Our Staff – office number 01760 721665

 <p><i>Gabbie Joyce</i> Parish Clerk & RFO</p>	 <p><i>Leonard Luff</i> Village Caretaker</p>	 <p><i>Sue James</i> NRCC Cleaner</p>	 <p><i>Mark Jennings</i> NRCC Caretaker</p>
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Chairman's report

The last 12 months have been extremely successful for the Parish Council with an excellent success rate relating to grants achieved to improve and introduce new facilities for our Parishioners.

A great big thank-you to our Parish Clerk who continues to demonstrate skills across a broad sphere and has brought the Parish Council to our award of Quality Council status, a magnificent achievement.

We continue to discuss with Breckland District Council, where to site the new houses required under Government Housing policy. There are to be approximately 70 new houses, these on top of currently 219 already with planning permission. It is a balancing act to ensure our village retains its character and does not become simply a concrete jungle.

As we move into the new financial year, we are engaging in the consultation for a possible new electricity substation to receive wind energy from new off shore wind farms. This will be properly discussed, and our villagers' concerns, especially after the noise and light issues surrounding the present Statoil site, now constructed, will be considered.

Welcome to Fraser Bateman, our newest member of council, joining us as we start the new year. We have a vacancy for one more member, an unpaid but hugely rewarding role enabling the delivery of vital services to the village. If you are interested, please contact Gabbie Joyce, our Parish Clerk.

I want to thank all our staff and Parish Councillors for their commitment over the past 12 months, the Council works really well, with healthy debate and decision making on all matters. We look forward to continued growth and development of Council's professionalism and influence in shaping our village well-being and resilience.

David Matthews

Parish Council Chairman

What we did during the year

New & improved facilities

- Two new bus shelters on A47
- New outdoor table tennis at the play area
- New trod on North Pickenham Road
- Upgraded 30 more street lights to low energy LED units
- Upgraded the play area by replacing grass matting with safer bonded rubber mulch
- New highway signage on Hale Road to protect children accessing the play area
- New seesaw installed at the play area
- A new "Drop off" facility at the school gate
- Footpath improvements on Hale Road to aid people with disability constraints
- Democracy access enhanced with installation of audio equipment at public meetings



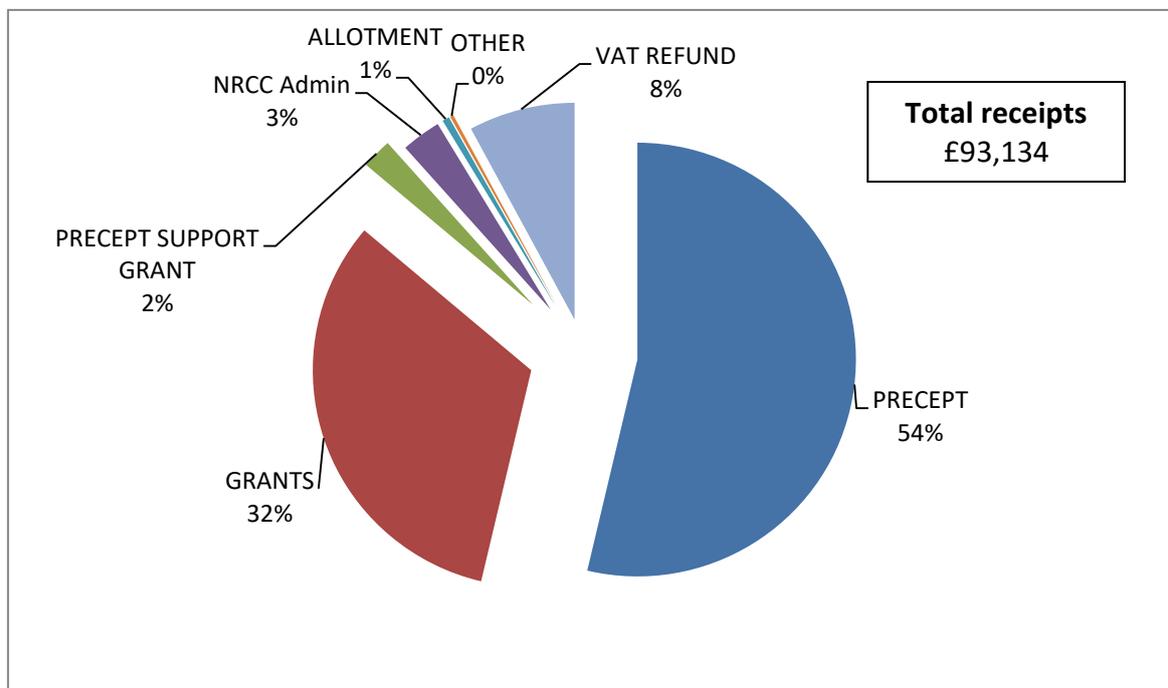
Continued development & community engagement

- Equipped our councillors with professional local government training
- Became a Quality Council – upgrading from Foundation level in less than 12 months
- Adopted the General Power of Competence empowering us to do more for the benefit of Necton
- Secured £30,247 in grant income to support local needs = £17.36 for every person on the electoral role of Necton
- Actively engaged within the Breckland Local Plan process to ensure controlled development within Necton
- Engaged with our residents through an open day and online survey - over 100 people participated in these community connection activities.
- Supported a resident to set up a No Calling Zone at The Birches
- Signed up to be a “Smoke-Free” play area



Finances

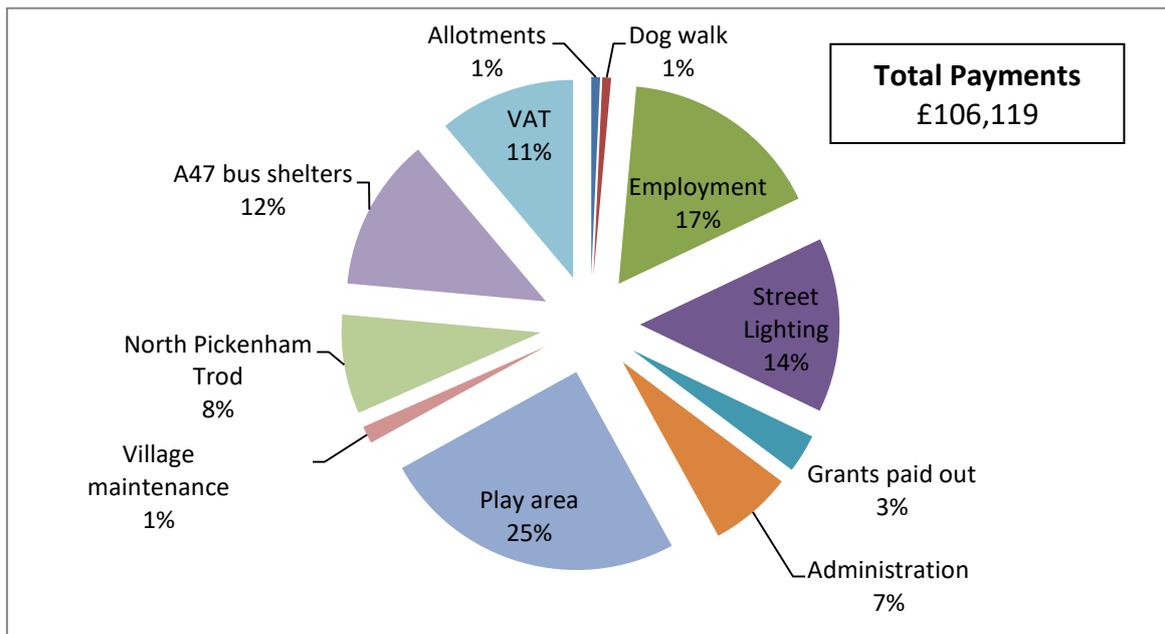
Receipts during 2016/17



Money in the bank at year-end: £40,959. This money is allocated into the following reserves:

- General reserves (operational, employment, contingency) £11,100
- Lights fund £15,688
- Play & youth fund £14,171

Payments during 2016/17



Parish Council grants to local organisations during 2016/17

- Necton Little Oaks - £238.10 to support an educational trip on mid-Norfolk Railway
- Necton Sports & Social - £378 to support purchase of new tables for the club
- Necton Football Club - £760 to support the purchase of mobile floodlights
- Necton Churchyard - £300 to support churchyard grass-cutting
- Lunch Club – a new counter top oven to extend provision to 36 residents
- Necton Community Centre – a new mechanical floor cleaner

Looking ahead – our priorities for 2017/18

- Path to School project - working with our school and NCC to complete a new facility to ease traffic congestion at the school gate.
- Breckland Local Plan – continuing to engage with Breckland Council to ensure future development meets the village needs.
- Vattenfall sub-station – continuing to engage in the consultation process to ensure the best possible outcome for the community.
- A47 junction improvements – continuing to engage with Highways England, our MP and other stakeholders to secure a sustainable solution.

Visit our website for more information –

www.nectonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk