

Necton Parish Council

Annual Report

April 2019 to March 2020

Our Councillors



*Jean Bass
Chair
01760 441391*



*Fraser Bateman
Vice- Chairman
07967 398010*



*Alice Spain
07519 511611*



*Ken Barrett
07716 916799*



*Mark Jennings
07879 041130*



*Phil Hayton
07979 510032*



*Thirza Hicks
07826 719681*



*Joe Sisto
01760 722168*

Our Staff – office number 01760 721665



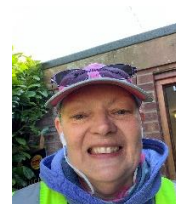
*Justine Luckhurst
Parish Clerk & RFO*



*Wayne Griffiths
Parish Assistant*



*Sue James
NRCC Cleaner*



*Liz Goddard
Caretaker*

Chairman's report

This has been a challenging year in many ways and I wish to record my thanks to the whole council for their support since I became Chair in May 2019.

We had a change of Vice Chair this year. My thanks to Joe Sisto and I look forward to working with Fraser Bateman as Vice Chair. We also welcomed a new Councillor too; Ken Barrett joined the Parish Council towards the end of 2019.

We have also had a new Clerk and Parish Assistant, both of whom have settled in very well. I am delighted to say that both of them passed their probationary period with flying colours and we all look forward to working with them in the coming months. Both Justine the Clerk, and Wayne the Parish Assistant are invaluable members of the team.

We also welcomed a new caretaker to our team this year, Liz Goddard

My thanks also to Sue, our hardworking and conscientious cleaner.

Each of the Councillors has taken on projects in the last year - not least of which covered the Vanguard/Boreas project covered by Alice Spain and Phil Hayton. The purchase of the Marlpit was spearheaded by Fraser Bateman. Our new multi games project was managed by Joe Sisto, Thirza Hicks and Mark Jennings. Ken Barrett has already become a champion for Necton in dealing with the ongoing lighting issues on the A47.

Last year's Festival was a success and we hope to be able to repeat that success in 2021, as this years has had to be cancelled. My thanks to Fraser Bateman for managing the Festival.

My sincere thanks to each of the Councillors for their enthusiasm and hard work on their individual projects while still handling queries from members of the public. We have worked as a team and this is evidenced by the variety of projects the Council discussed in the past year.

However, we still have issues to be covered in the coming year. The drains and ditches in the village continue to cause flooding at times and my thanks to Phil Hayton for his help on this matter.

When we are over this current crisis the Clerk and I will be looking to dividing the village into areas for each Councillor to cover. We hope in this way we can each cover smaller patch of the village which can then be discussed by full Council, if necessary.

Finally, when we are able to meet up again, I know we will have a lot of catching up but if we continue to work together as a team, I am confident we will be successful.

Jean Bass
Parish Council Chair

What we did during the year

New & improved facilities

- Further tranche of streetlighting upgraded to low energy LED units
- Trod extension between Ramms Lane and Black Drift completed



- Replaced damaged dog bins.
- Community Garden behind the Community Centre completed
- Car park at the Community Centre refreshed, parking bays reinstated and pot holes filled
- New noticeboards erected to replace the old ones, ensuring more notices can be put up and remain in a good condition
- Land known as the Marl Pit purchased. This will become a natural area for residents to enjoy
- New projector purchased- this will support our carbon footprint by reducing the amount of paper the Parish Council uses

- Upgraded the play area by completing the first phase of the new MUGA

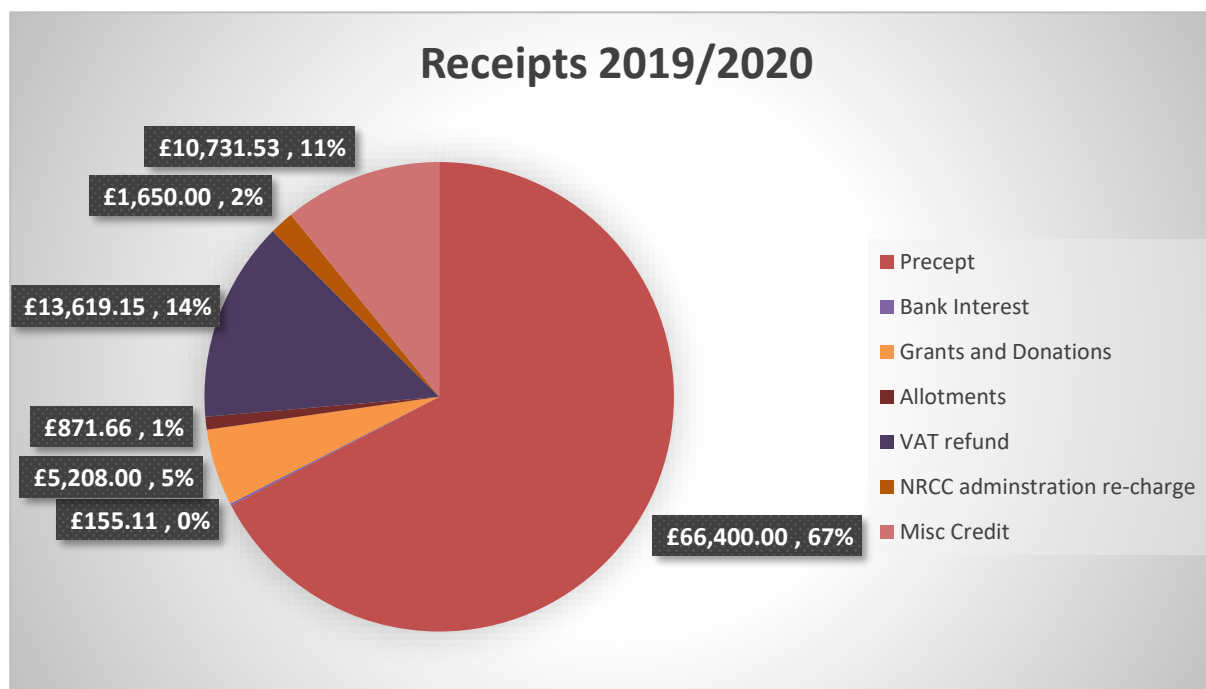


Continued development and community engagement

- Equipped our councillors with professional local government training
- Employed a new Clerk, Parish Assistant and a new caretaker
- Secured a new bus stop at the top of Tuns Road following discussions with residents and local bus company
- Over development fears- keeping on the PC meeting agenda, meeting with Breckland Planning to keep the village voice heard and concerns registered.
- Councillors attended meetings and submitted reports, models, questions and suggestions to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Vattenfall and Boreas Projects. Ongoing discussions with George Freeman MP to secure best outcomes for Necton and even a visit to Westminster to ensure the village voice was heard.
- The PC continued to engage with the relevant authorities and housing associations regarding the ongoing drainage and flooding issues. Round table meetings being arranged to resolve the issues with all relevant parties to be present.
- The PC liaised on a weekly basis with Highways England to resolve the ongoing issues with the lights on the A47

Finances

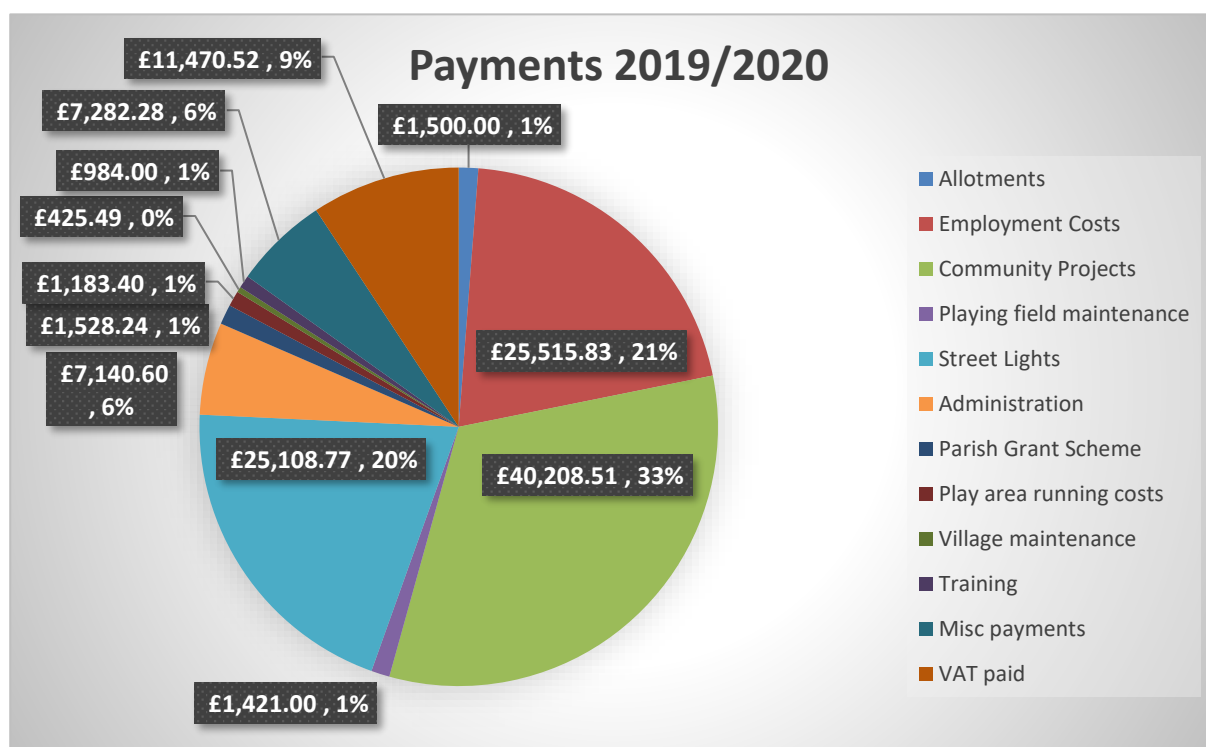
Receipts during 2019/20



Misc credits include monies raised by the Necton Festival and thereafter paid out to local charities

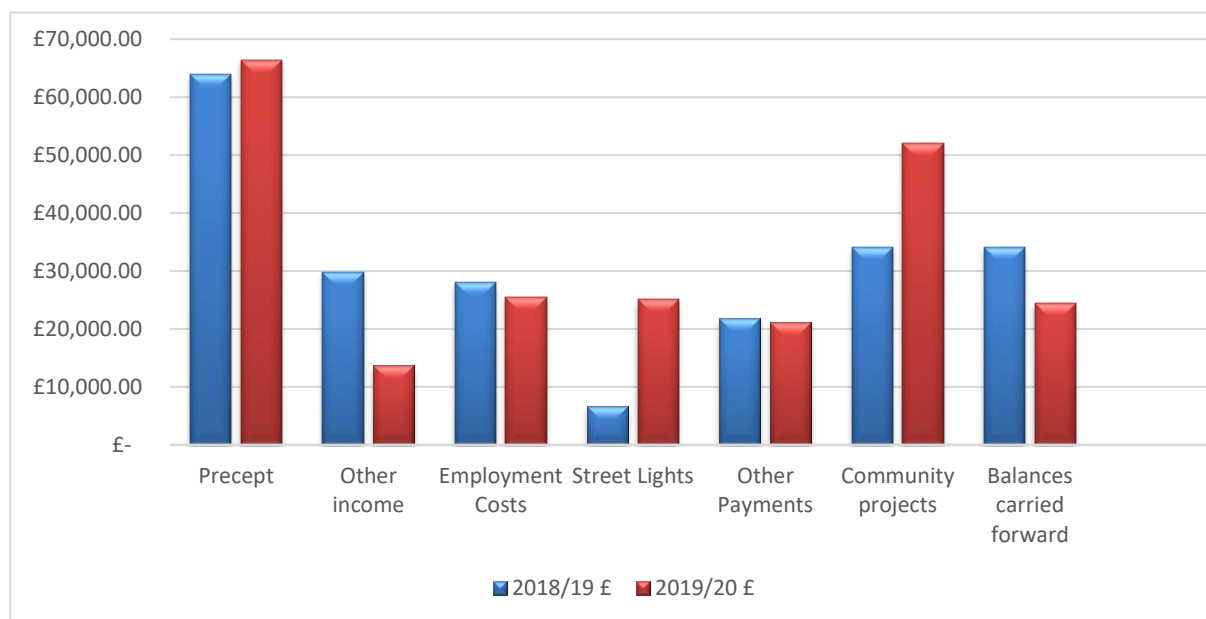
Grants included monies from the S106 fund which supported the purchase of the Marl pit.

Payments during 2019/20



The street lighting included further upgrading to LED lighting as well as day to day running costs.

Comparison with the previous year



Balances carried forward account for the MUGA costs that were not invoiced during 2019/2020.

Grants

Each autumn the Parish Council consider applications for funds from local organisations and groups. Full details on how to apply can be found on the Council's website:

<https://nectonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/files/2020/03/Grants-Policy-Review-March-2020.pdf>

Parish Council grants to local organisations during 2019/20

- Necton 1st Brownies -£250.00 to support their travel costs for the annual Seaside Sparke trip to Great Yarmouth
- Necton Sports & Social - £700 to support purchase of new hot water system and contribution towards new football goals
- Necton Churchyard - £400 to support churchyard grass-cutting
- Silver Threads Club- £100 contribution towards their Christmas lunch

Necton Community Centre

Necton Parish Council took over as sole trustee of Necton Rural Community Centre in October 2015. This allowed the long-standing management committee to finally retire.

The Council carry out their trustee responsibilities through the NRCC committee, which meets bi-monthly. Meetings are open to the public and minutes are published on the Parish Council's website.

The Parish Assistant is responsible for the operational activities and is supported by a long-standing Cleaner, a Caretaker and a small team of volunteers.

Finances of the community centre are completely independent of the Parish Council finances. They are managed by the Parish Assistant and overseen by the Parish Clerk.

The headline figures for year end 31 March 2020 are as follows:

Receipts £23,685.90

Payments £22,942.31

Balance in bank £16,717.63

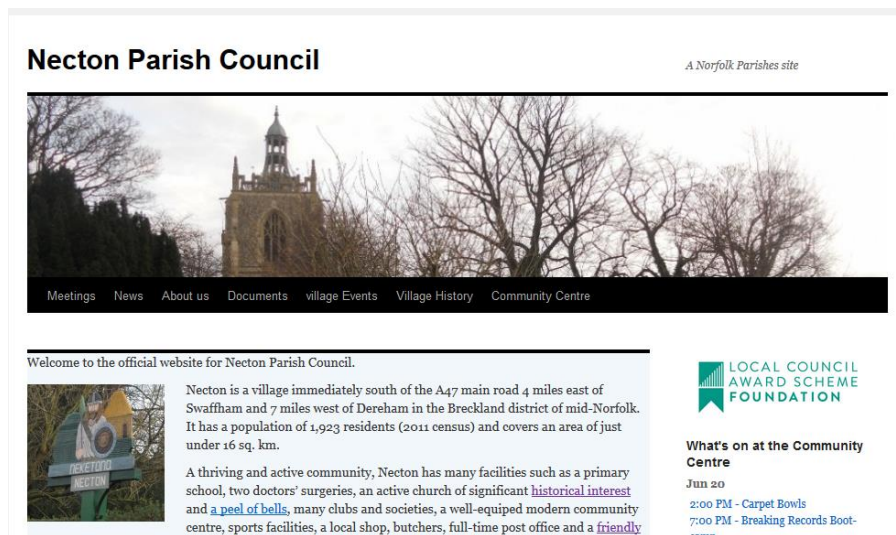
Looking ahead – our priorities for 2020/2021

- To commence with the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a very lengthy and extensive piece of work and will take some time to complete. The PC will be looking to a grant to support with the costs related to this.
- 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.
- To set up a Drop-in session at the Community Centre- this will provide a hub for residents to come and have a cuppa and a chat and will actively look to encourage residents to meet, chat and socialise. If successful the sessions may be expanded.

Our website

Our website is the best place to find information about your local council, its functions, governing documents, business plan & actions, minutes and finances

www.nectonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk



Contacts

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