

Freckleton Parish Council

Annual Report 2008

1. Chairman's report.

Last year two new Councillors joined the Council, they were Linda Burn (elected in May '07) and Paddy Quinn (co-opted in June '07)

As a result of a request from the Football section, the Council is progressing a dog control order for the Bush lane playing fields. During the consultation period, it was agreed that a Community watch scheme should be introduced to report the irresponsible dog owners. This scheme is currently ongoing and the Council is considering extending it to other parts of the village.

There is an ongoing problem with people drinking in the park and on the Bush lane playing fields, causing damage to the amenities and leaving broken glass and litter. Last club day it cost the Council £750 to have the portable toilets repaired. The Police have had limited success in trying to resolve this problem and the Council has tried to highlight the cost to clear up after this thoughtless people. If you see anyone drinking in these areas please ring the Police on 08451 25 35 45.

This year, as part of the follow-up to the Parish plan, the Council has introduced the new community Notice board, opposite the Cenotaph and it has proved very popular with the local Organisation, as they are able to advertise their events.

The carol service was very well attended last Christmas and the Council was pleased to see so many young people taking part.

Last year the Village won the Community involvement award in the large village section.

In conclusion, she thanked the Vice-chairman, Councillor L Rigby, the Parish Councillors and the Chairmen of the respective committees, for their work, help and support throughout the year. Plus all the other organization and individuals who have helped to support the Village and last but not least, she thanked the Clerk for his support during the past twelve months.

2. Chairman of Finance's report.

In the financial year ending 31st March 2008, overall, the income received exceeded the expenditure by £4K.

The Precept account (running of the Council) was overspent by £300, mainly due to the cost of the buffet, after the Tree lighting service. The Council has decided to limit this facility next year.

The Open spaces account (parks, sporting facilities, flower beds, grass verges and Council owned buildings) was £3.4k under budget, mainly due to a shortfall in the maintenance of buildings. Unfortunately, Fylde Borough Council froze the grant for the third year running and this shortfall offset the savings mentioned above.

The Council's thanks go to the Garlick brothers for all the hard work that has been put in to make the village so colourful and tidy.

There was an overspend on the allotments of £1k, due to an increase in the cost of water and one off maintenance requirements. The rents have been adjusted to recover the cost of the water.

The Community development account (used for capital expenditure and repairs) was under spent by £5K. In addition to these savings, the Council has been able to support the Organisations within the village to purchase major pieces of equipment.

The Council has purchased a much needed pickup van to help with the maintenance of the Open Spaces area.

In the new financial year, Fylde Borough Council has introduced a different way of collecting the annual community charge. Freckleton Parish Council now only pays for the cost of maintaining the public amenities within the Village, instead of paying a proportion of the FBC's overall costs. This has resulted in the residents of Freckleton paying less than the residents of Lytham St Annes and Kirkham, because we can undertake this work more efficiently than FBC.

The main areas that are covered by the Open Spaces charge are the Memorial park, Bush lane playing fields, the bowling green, the Cenotaph and all the grass verges and flower beds around the village.