

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council



May 2019

Welcome to the Parish Newsletter

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Notices

Recreational Facilities: A review of the leisure and playground facilities has been undertaken. The Council is in the process of finalising plans to upgrade the Cromwell Way children's recreational area. The parish is planning the upgrade before the summer school holidays. Cllr Maurice Billington kindly granted circa £5,000 from his OCC grant fund to enable the parish to add to the funds we had available meaning a more substantial upgrade. We hope the children use and enjoy the facility.

You may have noticed that Bramley Close children's play area surface has been improved and a replacement rocker has been installed along with gate improvements.

Allotments: There are allotments available for rental and minimal cost to the Parish (The annual cost is £37 a plot or £22 for half a plot). If you would like to rent an allotment please visit our neighbouring parish, Kidlington Parish Council. The office is based at Exeter Hall and KPC manage all of the bookings for allotments.

Website: Please visit our website www.gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk – this is regularly updated but also contains all of the Parish Councils latest finance information, news, councillor information and there is also a page with lots of useful links to information .

A reminder: Please report issues and faults to the council through www.fixmystreet.com
These include potholes, dog mess, issues with dogs, vandalism, broken street lights, fly tipping, loose paving, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, etc.

Spring Clean 2019: The Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Spring Clean took place in March this year. Cherwell District Council provided the recycling bags, litter picking equipment and gloves and took the rubbish away. Thank you to those who came along and helped keep our Parish tidy!

Annual Parish Meeting – Date for your diary!

The Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Meeting will be at Edward Feild School on **Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7pm.**

Questions to the parish should be submitted **to the clerk** no later than 8th May 2019.

Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Introduction of Councillors
4. Minutes: to approve the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2018
5. Matters Arising: from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April 2018
6. Accounts for the year end 31st March 2018: to receive the statement of the Parish Council's Accounts
7. Parish report
8. Police report (TVP have been invited to the meeting but have not yet confirmed attendance)
9. Planning Matters
10. Highway Matters
11. Resolution/Questions: to consider any resolutions or questions (**of which written notice has been given**)
12. Any other business

Precept

The council has had to increase the precept by 8%. It should however be noted that as a small parish the actual increase per household brings in a relatively small sum, it is unfortunately necessary and allows the parish to break even on its accounts. Councillors actively looked to reduce the percentage increase but with guidance from our RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) it was ascertained that an increase was necessary.

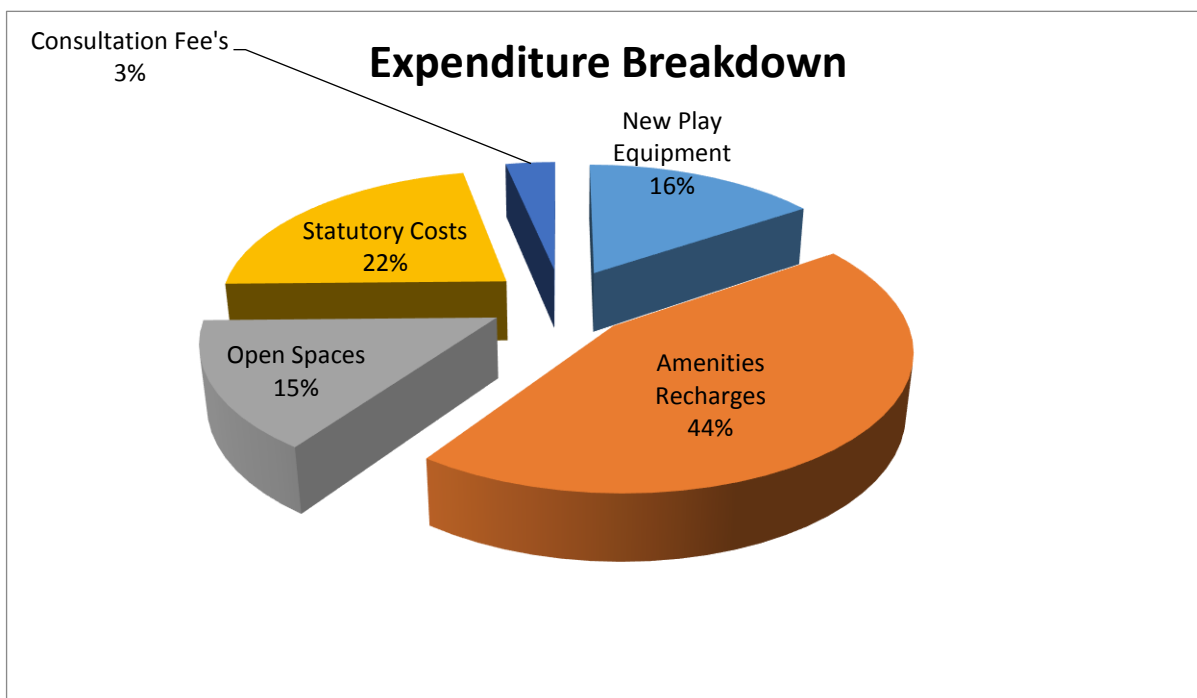
The councils expected costs continue to increase for the following reasons:

- 1) Ongoing expenses due to the Cherwell Local Plan 'Oxford's Unmet Housing Need'.
- 2) County level services are being pushed down to parish level to fund and support.
- 3) Increased annual investment in funding for planning / increased housing in the area.
- 4) Previous annual increases of the precept have not provided an adequate reserve in order to meet expected expenditure.
- 5) The precept remains significantly lower than that of Kidlington Parish Council.

GWEPC Annual Financial Statement 2018/19

Please find below the expenditure breakdown for the last financial year:

New Play Equipment	7,339
Amenities Recharges	20,886
Open Spaces	7,076
Statutory Costs	10,400
Consultation Fee's	<u>1,557</u>
Total	47,258



If you would like to see more detailed expenditure please refer to the website or contact the clerk.

Planning (Update on Oxford's Unmet Housing Need)

The Examination of Cherwell District Council's proposals for 4,400 new homes has taken place. Undoubtedly the proposed site within Gosford would have an impact on our parish but the proposed sites outside of the village in Begbroke, Yarnton and Woodstock will also likely impact us.

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council has objected the proposal at every opportunity and Cllr Carol Matheson spoke again on our behalf at the last hearing. We also employed the services of a Planning Consultant at key stages.

We do not anticipate hearing the outcome of the examination until later this year but we hope to hear by Autumn. As soon as we hear we will provide the Parish with an update.

Election Information and Parish Councillor Vacancies

This year was an election year for our Parish Council. This was uncontested and Cllr C Stayt, Cllr M Smith, Cllr E Walton and Cllr N Prestidge remain as Councillors for the Parish.

Cllr Maurice Billington has stood down from Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Council after many years. We would like to thank Cllr Billington for his dedication and guidance over those years.

We do have some interested individuals who may wish to be co-opted on to the Council but at the moment this still leaves us with vacancies.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the clerk via email or any of the current Parish Councillors mentioned above. Parish Councillors must be 18 years or over, on the electoral role and live OR work within three miles of the Parish. No previous experience is necessary, just a keen interest in the community.

Your Councillors

Cllr Clive Stayt	Cllr Merlin Smith
Cllr Neil Prestidge	Cllr Emilie Walton
Vacancy	Vacancy
Vacancy	Vacancy

Contact Information

Clerk: Karen East
 Email: clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk