

## Income and Expenditure

**Income:** During the year the Parish Council's greatest sources of income were the precept from Maldon District Council (£44,000.00) and fees from letting the pavilion (£3,777.25.) The Parish Council also gratefully received a donation from Purleigh Community Primary School towards the cost of enforcing the parking restrictions in Pump Lane and the Westerings (£195.00) and a very small amount of interest was accrued on the Parish Council's investment accounts.

**Expenditure:** The largest items of unusual expenditure in the year were the creation of Sally's Path (£6,365.00); the replacement of the allotment fence adjoining New Hall Vineyard (£1,475.00) and the upgrading of the security systems at the pavilion (£1,138.00.)

The cost of work to trees and hedges in the parish were also higher than normal (£2,760.00) as the Parish Council is now required to carry out professional annual risk assessments of all its tree stock, including an aerial inspection of the Redwood in All Saints Churchyard.

## External Audit of Accounts for the Year ending 31st March 2022

To comply with the legal requirement to enable interested parties and local electors to exercise their rights with regard to the accounts, PKF Littlejohn has suggested Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 inclusive, as the dates between which interested parties can inspect the accounts and related documents and exercise their rights under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Please note that on or before 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 the Parish Council will publish and display notices informing parishioners that the accounts will be available for inspection at Lower Barn Farm, Roundbush Road from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June to Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July inclusive (on reasonable notice by application to the Clerk).

A copy of 'Local Authority Accounts: A Summary of Your Rights' will be displayed alongside each Notice, as required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sections 26 and 27, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234).

## MEETINGS

The Parish Council meets on the second Friday of every month in the Wells Pavilion, Howe Green Road at 7.00.p.m with a public session beforehand commencing at at 6.45. p.m. for parishioners to talk to Councillors. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend.

## PURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2022 YOUR COUNCIL

Graham Rayner (Chairman)	Tel: 01621 828117
Steven Bardwell (Vice Chairman)	Brooklea, Cold Norton Road, Latchingdon. Tel: 01621 740234
Nigel Arthur	Contact <i>via</i> the Clerk.
Colin Ash	Gardeners Cottage, Spar Lane, Purleigh Tel: 01621 827055
Karen Collier	karencollierpurleigh@gmail.com
Brian Oliver	Cosy Nook, Chelmsford Rd, Purleigh. Tel: 01621 828433
Steven Potter	Lower Barn Farm, Roundbush Rd, Purleigh. Tel 01621 828270
Gavin Strathern	Spar Hill Farm, Chelmsford Rd, Purleigh Tel: 07702 322203

## CLERK

Jane Potter	Lower Barn Farm, Roundbush Road, Purleigh, Nr. Mundon, Maldon, Essex. CM9 6NN. Tel: 01621 828270; Email: jane.m.potter@btinternet.com www.purleigh.com
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## WEBSITE

## CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

I am so pleased to be able to start this report without reminding everyone of Covid restrictions, but instead to be able to introduce Karen Collier, a resident of Cock Clarks, who was co-opted onto the Parish Council in January 2022. We are very lucky to have her, and the skills and experience she brings to the council are a real asset. Prior to her co-option Karen represented the residents of Cock Clarks at a meeting with Essex County Council to try to reduce speeding traffic in Hackmans Lane, so she has a track record in trying to get things done to improve the quality of life for parishioners.

This year the Parish Council held twelve ordinary meetings at which Councillors made 62 attendances out of a possible 87. One Councillor attended every meeting and our thanks go to our District and County Council Ward Members, Sue White and Jane Fleming, for attending meetings, listening to our concerns, being available to residents and keeping us informed about the work of their councils. Parish Councillors also attended meetings with other organisations to try to find a solution to the problem of parking in Pump Lane and the Westerings. Members also formed working parties at the Pavilion, Children's Play Area and the allotments to try to improve those facilities. I am very grateful to my fellow Councillors for all their help and support and for the hours they freely give to get things done for the benefit of the parish.

During the year we commented on 41 planning applications and responded to Maldon District Council's consultation on future development in the area. As I'm sure you are all aware, this consultation provoked a big response and it was really positive to see so many concerned parishioners attending Parish Council meetings to have their say and engage with us to try to influence the decisions taken by higher tiers of local Government. As the Local Plan process progresses, we very much look forward to continuing this consultation with parishioners.

The total amount of money we required from Maldon District Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was £44,000 compared with £42,000 in the previous financial year.

During the year the Parish Council has continued to provide and maintain the pavilion and playing field for the benefit of parishioners. We spent £2,142.34 on general maintenance, which

included replacing the garage door, carrying out a GPS survey of the playing field boundary, skip hire following a substantial clear out of the pavilion and its outbuilding, electrical improvements and some redecoration. We also upgraded our CCTV systems at a cost of £1,138.00 and spent £290.84 in the Children's Play Area. Unfortunately, most of the latter expenditure involved purchasing graffiti removal and prevention products following some particularly unpleasant vandalism of the play equipment.

During the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 income from the pavilion and playing field amounted to £3,777.25 and expenditure on the facilities totalled £6,569.14. This represents a deficit for the year of £2,791.89 but does not take into account money spent on insurance and grass cutting which amounted to an additional £4,314.68. The Parish Council remains committed to subsidising the pavilion and playing field to a certain extent, so that as many local clubs and organisations as possible can use them but also acknowledges that it has a duty to minimise the expense levied on parishioners who do not use the facilities. We believe that currently the right balance is being struck.

Key projects undertaken by the Parish Council this year included the creation of 'Sally's Path' which provides a permissive footpath from the Westerings to the field behind the village hall to try to provide a safer route from the village to Purleigh School and alleviate parking problems in Pump Lane and the Westerings. Going forward, we hope to be able to work with Purleigh Village Hall Management Committee to improve access to this path *via* the village hall car park. We have also valued the support of Purleigh Community Primary School in this endeavour.

The Parish Council also installed a new fence at the allotments, and with the help of tenants tidied up the site. We are very grateful to our allotment tenants for their co-operation and for maintaining their plots so well. The site looks the best it has for years and it is a pleasure to see such a variety of produce being grown there.

During the year the Parish Council continued to pay Maldon District Council's Community Engagement team to enforce both the parking restrictions in Pump Lane and the Westerings, assisted once again by funding from Purleigh Community Primary School to whom we are very grateful, and the speed limits in Chelmsford Road and Hackmans Lane using Tru-Cam.

It was with pleasure that during the year the Parish Council was able to continue to pay Purleigh Community Shop's annual affiliation fee to the Plunkett Foundation and to donate a bench for customers to sit whilst waiting to be served or to chat. During the year we also gave small grants to Farleigh Hospice, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and the RNLI and we paid for a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Ovel for all his work in the parish, Libby Johns for her work at the pavilion and the clerk for continuing to efficiently administer the work of the council. We would also like to publicly thank Fred Savill for flying the Union Flag at the Pavilion when appropriate, proudly and diligently for over thirty years, before retiring from the role in May. We are very grateful to Andrew Harkness for taking over this duty on behalf of the parish.

Finally, it is my annual duty to report that the council has one employee, white, British who received training during the year. We are not able to detect any pattern of inequality arising from this data.

Graham Rayner.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the Parish Council's income and investments amounted to £96,617.37 and in the same period it spent £57,854.11 on parishioners' behalf. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the following monies were held:

General Fund:	
Barclays Community (Current) Account	£1,366.30
Barclays Business Premium Account	£15,550.79
Petty Cash	£50.00
Earmarked Reserves:	
Capital Projects Fund	£14,495.13
Legacy account	£7,301.04
	<b>£38,763.26</b>

