

Income and Expenditure

During the year the greatest sources of income were the parish precept (£44,000) and income from the pavilion and playing field (£935.) A small sum was also accrued in interest on earmarked reserves and we received a donation from Purleigh School towards the cost of employing Community Protection Officers to enforce the parking restrictions near the school.

The Parish Council spent £1,433.87 maintaining and improving the pavilion and playing field on behalf of parishioners, and an additional £4,093 was spent on grass cutting in the parish. £8,475.88 was spent on Open Spaces and Agency Services which included paying Maldon District Council to enforce the speed limit in Chelmsford Road and Hackmans Lane and the parking restrictions in Pump lane and the Westerings. It also included the creation of a new permissive footpath including fencing and signage.

Audit of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021

PKF Littlejohn LLP has concluded its audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the financial year 2020/2021 and has concluded that on the basis of its review, in its opinion, the information contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was in accordance with proper practices and that no matters had come to its attention which gave cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The successful conclusion of the audit has been advertised on the Parish Council's notice boards alongside a copy of the completed AGAR, and has also been published on the Parish Council's website.

Free Wellbeing Support for young people

Evolve Intervention (commissioned by the Maldon Youth Service) are offering to deliver 1-2-1 wellbeing support sessions to young people aged 13 to 19 and up to 25 with SEND, who live or are educated in the Maldon district. The young people will receive up to six hours worth of sessions which are delivered either online or via phone call and the sessions are led by the young person.

If you have any questions please contact: **Lauren Greene, Youth and Community Based Commissioner**, Essex County Council on 07809 314828 or via Lauren.Greene@essex.gov.uk

PURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st APRIL 2021 — 30th SEPTEMBER 2021

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
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 QUARTERLY REPORT

I hate to start off on a negative note but in recent weeks there have been several incidents of vandalism and theft in Purleigh, and the children's play area has been particularly badly affected. In August the relatively new multi-play item of equipment was vandalised by the application of very offensive graffiti, and some days later broken glass was deliberately positioned on the equipment to cause maximum harm to users. This is truly despicable and both crimes have been reported to Essex Police who are continuing to investigate (Crime Reference 42/185002/21). Please, if you have any information about who was responsible come forward, anonymously if you prefer. Purleigh is a safe, warm and welcoming community and this type of behaviour needs stamping out as soon as possible before it gets further out of hand. The Parish Council will be reviewing and enhancing all its security measures at the playing field in due course.

On a more positive note about community involvement, Officers from across the District Council are working to plan future engagement activities with residents, businesses and community groups to promote and engage on Climate Action, Health and Wellbeing, and Housing. Before Officers can really work with parishes and residents to set up 'Our Home, Our Future' events and social media activities however, they first need to identify people who are active in the community, make things happen, know how to achieve outcomes, and have skills to offer, or who simply want to get involved.

The engagement activities aren't planned yet and the District Council won't be doing anything without engaging all of its partners. This is simply to build up a list of

interested people and parties who would be willing to help to make the engagement a success, rather than the District Council setting everything up and just hoping people turn up. If you are interested in getting involved, or to find out more, please contact Joshua Fulcher (Strategic Theme Lead – Community Strategy, Performance and Governance Directorate, Maldon District Council) at joshua.fulcher@maldon.gov.uk and quote ‘Our Home, Our Future.’

This winter we are again participating in Essex County Council’s winter salt bag scheme for another year, and as the colder weather approaches we would very much like to thank all those volunteers in the parish who help spread the salt on the footpaths when it is icy, and those of you who store the salt bags on our behalf. This really does help to make the parish safer in wintry weather and is greatly appreciated. If you are involved in the scheme please do familiarise yourselves with the risk assessments and safety advice stored with the salt before spreading it however, as your safety is of paramount importance!

On the subject of bad weather, now is a good time for landowners to check that their roadside ditches are free from obstruction and that their trees and hedges aren’t overhanging the highway. Surface water flooding is a big problem and can damage the road, cause property flooding and present safety issues for road users. The law surrounding responsibility for roadside ditches is often quite poorly understood but as a general rule, unless the landowner can prove otherwise any ditch alongside the highway is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Similarly, property owners shouldn’t allow their trees and hedges to obstruct the free use of the highway by pedestrians or vehicles, obscure road signs or interfere with the view of drivers. Hopefully if we all take a little action now we can help prevent bigger problems occurring in Purleigh later in the winter.

We will be setting the precept for 2022/2023 in January. This is the amount of money we need from the District Council to be able to continue to provide services and facilities in Purleigh for the forthcoming financial year, and the sum arrived at is the result of over a year’s budgeting. If there are any projects or purchases which you think would benefit Purleigh and its parishioners, and you would like the Parish Council to consider providing them, please let the clerk know by 3rd December so that, if approved in principle, she can get quotations for the Parish Council’s consideration in January. In the past we have responded to requests for new play equipment and litter bins, and have given grants towards sports equipment to local clubs and organisations.

As always, may I take this opportunity to remind you that the Parish Council meets on the second Friday of every month in the Wells Pavilion, Howe Green Road and that a public session is held between 6.45 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. before each meeting. Please come along if you have an issue you would like to discuss with us or if you are just interested to see what goes on.

Graham Rayner

FINANCIAL MATTERS

During the period 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021 the Parish Council’s income and investments amounted to £89,552.84 and in the same period it spent £33,197.43 on parishioners’ behalf. At 30th September 2021 the following monies were held:

General Fund:	
Barclays Community (Current) Account	£1,978.62
Barclays Business Premium Account	£34,531.63
Petty Cash	£50.00
Earmarked Reserves:	
Capital Projects Fund	£12,494.48
Legacy account	<u>£7,300.68</u>
	£56,355.41

