

# Disley Parish Council Annual Report

Finance Report for 2015-16 by Cllr. Liz Chavasse-Hadfield,  
Chairman of Disley Parish Council Finance Committee



The balance sheet for Disley Parish Council for 2015/16 (subject to audit) is presented. All income and expenditure has been accounted for. I have selected the most significant financial transactions and tried to highlight key points.

## Major Income Items:

- £121,300 Precept raised\*
- £11,153 Community Centre Hire Charges – a 2% increase on 2014/15.
- £5,285 Land Rental Income – from fields, allotments and Disley Dam. A further £1,650 is due by the end of April 2016.
- £8,171 Recharge to CEC for Library Utility and Maintenance Costs – this is the CEC share of the building expense for the library and includes a contribution to roof and footpath improvements.
- £4,200 Cheshire East Council Tax Support Grant - This figure represents a decrease of 24% on the previous support grant and is expected to continue falling.
- £1,047 Interest from Parish Council long-term investment account.
- £5,000 Disley Sports and Leisure Trust grant for improvements to the Station Approach ball court.
- £2,500 United Utilities grant towards the restoration of the village fountain.
- £1,825 Disley and New Mills Angling Club contribution towards improved parking and accessibility facilities at Disley Dam.

\*The precept was increased by 8.1% on the previous year which equates to £63.86 per annum for a band D property for 2015/2016

## Major Expenditure Items:

- £20,510 Community Centre running costs - representing a net cost to residents of £1,186.
  - £11,800 Parish Council contribution to the PCSO service
  - £4,464 Provision of Summer/Winter Floral Displays
  - £4,250 Disley Dam parking and accessibility improvements • 43% of which was funded by Disley and New Mills Angling Club in addition to the large number of voluntary labour hours they contributed to complete the work.
  - £4,113 Village Maintenance - covering things like pest control, maintenance materials and tool hire etc.
  - £4,119 Newtown football pitch and recreation area - most significantly the cost of drainage improvements.
  - £4,110 Christmas tree lighting event – the event, which is supported by village residents and traders, was again a great success and the cost included provision of Christmas trees, village decorations and fireworks.
  - £4,000 Tree maintenance - resulting from a three-yearly tree safety audit conducted in 2014/15. The Parish has benefited considerably from the decision to increase the Village Handyman's hours to full time and also his achievement in completing training on tree management. The Handyman, Daniel Hodgkiss, was able to complete a large amount of the required works and, without his contribution; the cost would have been significantly higher. Thanks are due to Daniel for this.
  - £3,875 Village fountain restoration - which was 90% funded by generous grants and donations.
  - £3,363 Neighbourhood Plan - The village embarked on the creation a neighbourhood plan to guide the shape of the village's development over the next thirty years. The council advanced funds to support the launch and completion of an initial resident survey. The Parish is hoping these costs will be refunded via a grant application. The costs were not in the budget and have been found through prudent financial management.
  - £2,401 Community bus running costs - The community bus continued to operate during 2015/16 and thanks go to all the volunteer drivers, past and present, without whom, this service would not be possible. The bus ran at an operating loss of £1,608 this year with the council receiving income of £793 from membership fees and hire charges. The Parish Council holds an earmarked fund to support this service, which at the end of 2015/16 stands at £3,937. Therefore, there is currently no cost to residents of running the service. Councillors are exploring opportunities to enable the service to be self-sustaining as it unlikely that further grants will be received from CEC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey Dawson for her excellent contribution as Assistant Clerk and welcome Helen Richards to the role, whom, amongst other things, has already made a positive contribution in helping to co-ordinate the Community Bus service.
  - £1,467 Disley Cycling Festival – This was a huge success and attended by adults and children. The event was part funded by £350 of grants and there was no entry fee. Due to the generosity of voluntary donations and a substantial contribution from the Women's Institute coffee and cake stall, the council was able to make a donation of £419 to the Anthony Nolan Trust for Leukaemia.
  - £1,048 Arnold Rhodes recreation area – maintenance and repairs
  - £500 Well-Dressing event grant
  - £250 Music Festival event grant
- I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Mary Webb, our former Clerk for her professional accounting skills, excellent work in managing the budget and for supporting me in a new role of Chair of the Finance & General Purposes committee.

## Councillor Expenses

Parish Councillors are elected on a voluntary basis and are unpaid. The elected Chairman of Disley Parish Council receives an annual allowance of £540. Since being elected in May 2015, the total amount of expenses incurred and claimed by councillors in the course of conducting council business for Disley Parish, was £51.20.

## Looking forward to 2016/2017

Every year the Parish Council raises a precept to pay for the range of services it provides. Careful management has helped keep costs down, however, for 2016/17 it has been necessary to set a small increase in the precept. For 2016/17 the Parish Precept will raise £134,500 compared to the £121,300 raised for 2015/16. This additional £13,200 represents a 5.9% increase equating to £67.85 per year for a Band D property – an increase of £3.99 per annum or 7.7p per week for a Band D property. The additional £13,200 will be spent almost entirely on two things, additional salaries and village CCTV. The Parish Council has five employees who work hard to deliver the Parish's statutory responsibilities and support the councillors in making Disley a better place to live. Like most small councils, the salaries of the staff form the largest single expense incurred by the Parish. Salary costs in 2015/16 have been higher than for three reasons. Firstly, following Mary Webb's decision to retire, it was decided to employ a clerk full-time rather than part-time. Secondly, Mary has been supporting the new Clerk, Richard Holland, with the handover at an important time of year incurring additional costs. Finally, last year's Parish budget was fixed before the announcement of a nationally agreed increase in employer pension contributions. These factors have generated £6,000 higher salary costs in 2015/16 than anticipated. The 2016/17 salaries budget shows an additional spend of approximately £10,000 over last year, predominantly to cover the cost of a full-time qualified Clerk. The decision to appoint a full-time Clerk is deemed necessary because of the significant projects in progress or on the horizon including; supporting the development of the Neighbourhood Plan; supporting the Community Centre Development project; supporting a project to further improve the Arnold Rhodes recreation area and supporting the project led by CEC to mitigate the effects of the A6 Manchester Airport Relief Road project. Having a full-time Clerk will improve our contribution to these and other projects.

During 2015 the Parish Council was advised that CEC would no longer be funding the operation of the village's three central CCTV cameras and that if we wanted the service to continue, then it would be chargeable from April 2016. After viewing the control room in Macclesfield, seeing incident reports where the CCTV cameras were utilised and having a dialogue with local police officers, the council has decided that the cameras offer a major benefit to the village. The value of the service will continue to be monitored but for 2016/17 £3,750 has been allocated in the budget.

## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2016

	31/03/15	31/03/16
	£	£
<strong>Long Term Assets</strong>		
Investment Account	70,000	70,000
<strong>Current Assets</strong>		
Debtors	2,168	4,913
VAT Recoverable	1,704	2,988
Payment in Advance	1,104	0
Cash at Bank	48,068	47,727
	<u>53,044</u>	<u>55,628</u>
<strong>Total Assets</strong>	123,044	125,628
<strong>Less current liabilities</strong>		
Loans	0	0
Receipts in Advance	0	198
Creditors	51	0
	<u>51</u>	<u>198</u>
<strong>Represented by:</strong>		
Opening Balance	125,135	122,994
Fund Surplus	(2,141)	2,436
Balance carried forward	<u>122,934</u>	<u>125,430</u>