

Newton St Cyres Parish Council



Annual Report and Summer Newsletter 2019

Hello fellow Residents, welcome to my first Annual Report and Summer Newsletter as Chairman of the Newton St Cyres Parish Council.

This year we have said goodbye to David and Jill Baker who after around 14 years of service to our community have moved to North Devon to be nearer to family. More on this, and our goodbye and thanks to Adam Reeves, are printed later in this report.

With this being an election year we now have a new Parish Council and say a big hello and welcome to Liz Ouldridge, Graham Scopes, Damien Hodge and Roger Cashmore. Unfortunately we have also lost our fantastic District Councillor, Peter Hare-Scott, who has retired to Cornwall, but we look forward to working with his elected successor at MDDC, Graeme Barnell.

This report contains various articles from our local institutions. It is worth remembering that they are staffed by volunteers who freely give their time to help make our village a better place to reside and what an excellent job they do.

Happily the A377 has now been resurfaced at long last. With luck I will be talking about Average Speed Cameras having been installed by next year's report. Plans for a Pedestrian Crossing have been produced by DCC and consultation is underway. However funding will need to be found so it may be a longer while before we see it in place.

Plans for the development of the old school site are still awaited but you will hear just as soon as we do. Do please sign up to our Facebook page and also look regularly at our website where you will find minutes of our meetings and other interesting reports detailing what is happening in our village.

You are always welcome to come along to our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month at the Parish Hall and a councillor is always available to you at the monthly market on the first Saturday of each month. Do come along and say hello.

I hope that you find this publication of interest.

Regards, Jim

Jim Enright

Chairman, Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Your Local Representatives

Devon County Councillor

Cllr Margaret Squires, Frostlands Farm, Copplestone, Crediton EX17 5NY 01363 84337
margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk

Mid Devon District Councillor

Cllr Graeme Barnell, Hales, West Town Road, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5BS 01392 851308 – gbarnell@middevon.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Cllr Jim Enright, Woodlea, Langford, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5AG (Chairman) 01392 851859 – jimenright@newtonstcyres-pc@devon.gov.uk Chairman, Community Engagement officer, Development Group, Raddon Hills Parish Councils Group, Parish Hall Car Park Group member and member of the Staff and Personnel Committee.

Cllr Roger Cashmore, 27 The Glebe, Thorverton, Exeter, EX5 5LS 01392 860053 – rogercashmore@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Churchyard Liaison, Flood/Emergency Plan Integration Officer, Raddon Hills Parish Councils Group member.

Cllr Damien Hodge, 2 Tytheing Close, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5DB 01392 851111 – damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Arboretum Management Group Liaison, Neighbourhood Watch Officer, Risk Assessment of Assets.

Cllr Liz Ouldridge, Kuredu, New Estate, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5AR 01392 851621 – lizouldridge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Press Officer, Allotment Officer, Neighbourhood Litter Officer.

Cllr Stephen Parker, Lilly Farm, Newton St Cyres EX5 5BY 01392 851505 – stephenparker@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Boniface Trail Representative, Parish Footpath Officer, Raddon Hills Parish Councils Group member.

Cllr Gina Quicke, 36 West Town Road, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5BS 01392 851627 – ginaquicke@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Development Group member, Primary School Link, Parish Hall Representative, Staff and Personnel Committee member, Risk Assessment of Assets.

Cllr Graham Scopes, Fairview, Half Moon Village, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5AB 01392 851375- grahamscope@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Community Speed Watch Officer, Snow Warden and Co-ordinator.

Cllr Chris Southcott, Barn Owl Cottage, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5AX 01392 851569 – chrissouthcott@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Highways and Railways Liaison Officer, Recreation Ground Representative.

Cllr Paul Taylor, 6 Woodlands, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5BP 01392 851604 – paultaylor@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Development Group Member, Staff and Personnel Committee Member, Training Officer

Parish Clerk, Jane Hole, The Cellar, Pump Street, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, EX5 5BY 01392 851148 - parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Website/Facebook Officer

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 4 April 2019 in the Parish Hall Club Room at 6.45pm

Present:

The Chairman of Newton St Cyres Parish Council, Cllr J Enright presided.

Attending were Parish Councillors, Ian Sorenson, MDDC (left 7.15pm), Cllr M Squires, DCC, Cllr P Hare-Scott, MDDC, Parish Clerk, and 21 members of the public.

1. Presentation from Ian Sorenson, DCC, on plans for pedestrian crossing

Mr Sorenson presented two possible plans drawn up by DCC for a pedestrian crossing in the Village centre. The cost for Scheme A was approximately £175,000 and Scheme B, approximately £250,000. Both schemes would involve taking some of the Village Green and this would require permission both from the Parish Council (who own the Green) and the Secretary of State. Scheme B would require some additional land acquisition. A zebra crossing had been ruled out due to regulation requirements. If agreed, any scheme would be funded by contributions from developments. It was possible that Scheme A could be re-worked to include a couple of parking spaces with timed restrictions by the Post Office, although it would not be possible for parked cars to move if the bus arrived. Mr Sorenson stated that it was very likely that average speed cameras would be installed in the parish and this would be the first such installation in a parish in Devon. These would be placed by Quicke's on the Crediton side of the village and past the old school on the Exeter side of the village. It was hoped these could be installed within the next year.

A parishioner reported how difficult it was to cross the A377 from Sand Down Lane to Tytheing Close and Mr Sorenson suggested the parishioner write to him with details as it might be possible to look at the road layout if and when the old school site is sold for development.

Mr Sorenson confirmed that the flashing warning lights for the school would be moved as soon as possible and the dropped curb at the new school site would be completed. Our Neighbourhood Highways Manager was looking at the possibility of a school warning sign in Station Road and a speed assessment would be carried out very shortly. Mr Sorenson

encouraged parishioners to consider the plans further and to make comments to the Parish Council which would then be fed back to DCC. Comments should be made to the Parish Council over the next couple of months. The plans were available on the Parish Council website and a suitable place to display the plans would also be found. Cllr J Enright thanked Mr Sorenson for attending the meeting and Mr Sorenson left the meeting. 13 members of the public also left at this point.

2. Apologies

Cllr A Reeves (work commitments)

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 3 May 2018

Agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Chairman's Report

My year as Chairman has flown by. I must start by offering my sincere thanks to David Baker, Jill Baker, Adam Reeves and Paul Taylor, all of whom are stepping down from the Parish Council this year. David and Jill are responsible for encouraging the Parish Council to be outward looking and democratic and they most certainly deserve the thanks of the whole community for their many years of work on your behalf. We wish them both some good family time in North Devon. Adam too has most certainly contributed more than his fair share to our local well-being. We wish him all of the very best in his new career as a Hotel Group Director up North, albeit he will be living in the village at weekends at least. We are also losing Paul Taylor who is stepping down due to eye issues. Paul has been a great help on legal issues as well as chairing the Boniface Trail committee. No doubt we will continue to keep in touch.

Most of the work carried out by the Parish Council passes under the radar. Jobs like recruiting and looking after Snow Wardens, Neighbourhood Watch Deputies, Litter Pickers, Allotment Holders and Speed Watch Marshalls; all requiring local volunteers without whom the community would be a far less attractive place. Then there is the attendance at meetings of local organisations and in particular the Village Hall, the Arboretum and the Recreation Ground, all of whom are run by volunteer committees and help to enrich our lives. All Councillors have specific responsibilities as well as collective ones and their hard work is very much appreciated.

This year we have been plagued by potholes, especially on the A377. They are the responsibility of Devon County Council and will be repaired eventually, probably early in May. We keep chasing them and they keep putting us off. And the intervention of our County Councillor, Margaret Squires, gets us nowhere either. But we continue to pressurise as best we can. The flashing lights outside of the old school continue to flash almost a year

after the school moved to Station Road. And still there are no school signs in Station Road. However we will not give in. As the saying goes...Everything will be alright in the end. And if it is not yet alright, then it is not yet the end!!

On a brighter note our hard working District Councillor, Peter Hare-Scott, is retiring this year and he is warmly thanked for the considerable help he has been to resolving issues on our behalf.

In next year's report we would hope to have good news about the installation of Average Speed Cameras and some progress on plans for a Town Centre Crossing. And far fewer potholes.

The Community Fair was a success and will no doubt be repeated. A village such as ours really does rely heavily upon volunteers and it is great to see that there are so many community-minded people about. However more helpers are needed so please do step forward and lessen the burden for all. The new school is attracting more pupils and the new houses in Kingfisher Close are almost fully occupied. Soon we should hear about the plans for the old school site and you can rest assured that you will be kept fully informed.

Your Parish Council's philosophy is to be completely open and honest with our Community and we will always fully share the information that comes our way. Do please follow us on Facebook for updated information and keep an eye on our website and village notice boards too.

Finally we have been informed that seven candidates have stood for the nine seats on the Parish Council. Two new councillors have been elected. Roger Cashmore, who has served as a NSC councillor previously, and Graham Scopes who has regularly attended our meetings seated in the parishioners' chairs. From next month both will take their place at the Parish Council table alongside Liz Ouldrige, Steve Parker, Gina Quicke, Chris Southcott and myself. The two vacancies will hopefully be filled by co-option.

5. Parish Council Financial Statement (unaudited) for year ending 31 March 2019

Circulated to those present and noted.

6. Community Volunteer of the year

Peter Hawksley, Editor of the Newton wonder Magazine, was presented with the award of Newton St Cyres Community Volunteer of 2018 in recognition of his many years of service to the village.

7. Public Participation/Questions

There were no questions. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Newton St Cyres Parish Council Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2019

Current Account Receipts

Precept		£12,559.85
Grants	MDDC Council Tax Reduction	£208.15
	MDDC Village Green	£100.00
	DCC Locality (sign)	£50.00
	DCC PROW	£200.00
	MDDC 106	£1,000.00
	Allotment rent	£400.00
	VAT Refund	£206.98
	Parish Hall contribution to resurfacing fund	£750.00
	Raddon Hills/Feniton admin payment	£210.00
	Wayleave	£3.48
Total receipts current account		£15,688.46

Current Account Payments

Grants	Boniface Trail	£250.00
	Citizens Advice	£100.00
	Mid Devon Mobility	£50.00
	NSC Recreation Ground	£495.00
	North Devon Search and Rescue Team	£50.00
	Parish Hall	£800.00
Admin and running costs	Clerks Wages incl PAYE/Raddon Hills/Feniton	£3,935.32
	Expenses – clerk	£143.32
	Expenses – other	£20.75
	Fees and subscriptions	£370.85
	Hall expenses & electricity	£235.00
	Insurance	£366.35
	Printing	£184.60

	Training (Clerk and Councillors)	£95.00
Repairs & Maintenance	Allotment costs	£162.00
	Bus shelter cleaning	£64.00
	Gardening/Maintenance	£860.76
	Grass cutting	£1,320.00
	Grass cutting – Churchyard	£750.00
	Noticeboards	£170.00
	Signs (locality grant)	£50.00
Miscellaneous	Electric cost for Vodafone Surestart	£30.00
	Fencing for new churchyard	£430.00
	Parish Hall resurfacing fund	£1,500.00
	Purchase of strimmer (PROW grant)	£199.99
	Refund of DCC grants	£500.00
	Set up for new e-mail addresses	£187.00
	VAT	£206.98
Total payments current account		£13,527.42

Financial Summary Current Account

Balance b/f as at 1 April 2018	£13,002.19
Add receipts for y/e 31 March 2019	£15,688.46
Less payments for y/e 31 March 2019	£13,527.42
Balance c/f 31 as at 31 March 2019	£15,163.23

Financial Summary Footpath Account

Balance b/f as at 1 April 2018	£407.29
Add receipts for y/e 31 March 2019	£0.00
Less payments for y/e 31 March 2019	£19.27
Balance c/f 31 as at 31 March 2019	£388.02

Financial Summary Reserve (resurfacing account)

Balance b/f as at 1 April 2018	£1,500.38
Add receipts for y/e 31 March 2019	£1,503.62
Less payments for y/e 31 March 2019	£0.00
Balance c/f 31 as at 31 March 2019	£3,004.00

Financial Balances All Accounts

Current Account	£15,163.23
Footpath Account	£388.02
Reserve Account	£3,004.00
Total of all Accounts as at 1 April 2019	£18,555.25

Devon County Councillor's Report

I endeavour to come to the Parish Council meeting as often as possible but as I have 29 parishes within the County division it is not always possible. Newton St Cyres is always a well-run council and it is good to see the councillors with their various roles working so well together. I am pleased to see the A377 within the village resurfaced at last. It was due to be done last autumn and then Wales and West Utilities came to do the gas works and a halt was taken in the planned work. It is good that both are now finished and hopefully the road will not be dug up again! I will look forward to the flashing lights being in place to slow the traffic at school times and make it safer for the school patrol. Long term there is traffic calming measures being discussed with the repositioning of the bus stops within the village.

Within the County Council I sit on Children's Scrutiny. We look at the services that are provided to children within Devon with a prime focus on the looked-after children. The foster carers play an important role and there is always a need for more. The social workers and support staff do a sterling job. There are many disabled children within the County and the age of children entering adult services has increased from 18 to 25. Devon County are working hard to campaign for fairer funding for our schools, the children within Devon deserve the same funding as all others within the Country.

Thursday 23rd May saw the County Council's annual meeting and I am highly honoured to be elected as Vice Chair for the coming year.

Cllr Margaret Squires

Mid Devon Councillor's Report

Since my election in May I've been busy finding out more about my new responsibilities. I've also tackled some of the issues that were raised with me during my campaign.

1. **Communal areas maintenance at Tytheing Close, Court Orchard, Shuttern Close, and New Estate Sweetham.** Mid Devon Council are responsible for the maintenance of and the communal areas as well as its rented housing on these estates. This includes some pathways and communal grassed areas (apart from the Newton Village green). I've visited these estates with Andy Paddison the Mid Devon Housing Neighbourhood Officer and agreed where work needs to be done. The cuts in the money given to local authorities has meant less money to spend on estate maintenance. However, both Andy and I share a determination not to let standards slip. This includes regular grass cutting, weeding of paths etc. Andy and I will be following up on agreed action points. Please let me know if you have concerns.

2. **Road safety and the environment.** Before and during my campaign I received a number of representations about road safety and environmental issues and a perceived lack of progress in getting these addressed. Most of these concerns arise from the ever-increasing volumes of traffic on the A377 and the impact of this on our communities. These concerns include: -
 - Safe(r) road crossing points across the A377 at Smallbrook (bus stop), Newton Village, Tytheing, and Half Moon.
 - Pavements/pathways in Half Moon and along Station Rd (between the school and the Bridge).
 - Cycle paths particularly the planned Boniface Trail.
 - 20mph speed limits on roads where children play especially those without pavements.
 - The safety of the crossroads in Newton Village (A377 junction with Church Lane and Station Rd).
 - Extending the Park and Ride service in Crediton
 - Speeding along the A377 including Newton Village and Half Moon (Average Speed Camera plans)
 - Pollution levels in Newton Village

I believe we need a local road safety action plan to be consulted on with local people and agreed with Devon County Council Highways and the Police. This should include a timetable for action. I will be meeting with managers from the Highways Department and the Police. I also hope to meet with the committee responsible for the Boniface Trail to find out how Mid Devon Council might be able to help in moving the Project towards completion. I have invited the Parish Council to discuss with me how we can work together to get this work done.

3. Planning and Development. The Government is asking local councils to meet targets for more housing. The Mid Devon Council Local Plan sets out the amount and type of new housing to be built and where. This plan is still in draft form. The Government is now asking Mid Devon Council to review the Plan and look again at how housing targets can be met especially in the early years of the plan. We are also waiting for the latest version of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan that will also include additional targets for new housing in Mid Devon.

I have been asked to take on lead responsibility for Planning and Regeneration within the new governing Cabinet of Mid Devon Council. The Cabinet will soon be reviewing our responses to the Government on the Local Plan and our involvement in the Greater Exeter Plan.

At the moment I understand that the Parish is not identified by Mid Devon Council for additional housing. However, I will obviously be keeping a close eye on this and I will update if there is new information. I am committed to involving local people in early discussions about any new housing development plans in the Parish.

4. Contact Please contact me if you want to share your views on these issues or on other matters relating to local services. I am very happy to arrange a private meeting either in your home or mine if this is needed.

Cllr Graeme Barnell

Newbrooke Ward

Mid Devon District Council

01392 851308

07564541572

Facebook messaging:- <https://www.facebook.com/Graeme-Barnell-District-Councillor-476396543103535/>

Web Page:- <https://www.newtonwonder.net/mid-devon-district-councillor.html>

Newton St Cyres Primary School Report

The new school continues to thrive and we continue to be delighted with the new modern building for all the children at Newton St. Cyres. The foundation stage unit building has now been completed and has been given the name 'The Burrow'. Final works were completed to the building over the Christmas holidays, including carpet areas for quiet time, tightening security measures and also sorting internet and phone access. The building has been in use since the start of term and hosts the nursery aged children in the morning. In the afternoon, both The Burrow and class 1 are used for continuous provision which all the foundation stage unit children can access.

Numbers of children are growing at Newton St. Cyres and we are now full in KS1. As a result of this, admissions have been contacted to discuss the possibility of moving some year 2 children into the lower KS2 class. This would free up some space in our KS1 class allowing us to accept more children into the school. At the start of the term, we received 4 applications for places in year 5, year 3, year 2 and reception. This has coincided with the second phase completion of the Kingswood Homes. The foundation stage unit is also growing and we have seen a significant increase in sessions booked. This is largely due to current children increasing their hours at the school, but we have also added some new children to our registers. As the summer term approaches, I expect these numbers to increase once again.

Staffing has remained consistent for this academic year, although there has been a significant change with the addition of a foundation stage unit. Miss Scott-Hake and Mrs. Tempest are running our new foundation stage unit alongside Mrs. Finning, Mrs. Bosely, Mrs. Turner, Miss Finch, Mrs. Crouch and Mrs. Phillips. Their contracts run cross the week and ensure that we have adequate cover for the ratios required. In class 2 Mr. Hookway continues to teach alongside Mrs. Gee and Ms. Keast. Mr. Hamidullah remains in class 3 alongside Mr. Hannaford and in class 4 Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Theedom job share alongside Miss. Mayne. Mrs. Tempest has just returned from maternity leave and resumes her post within the foundation stage unit.

The curriculum has also seen many changes over the past year. The wider curriculum has increased expectations for all year groups and to meet these, we continue to use Cornerstones. This has provided a thematic approach to learning across all the subjects and has made a positive impact especially in writing. Staff have also had some intensive training sessions on Talk For Writing with other school in the Crediton Learning Community, which has also impacted on writing, improving quality and quantity. Other staff meetings have focused on mental health, wellbeing and workload, something which we take very seriously within the Exe Valley Federation.

To enhance the regular school curriculum throughout the summer we also organise residential visits which were once again very popular. The 3 federation schools attended; Plymouth Aquarium and Escot for year 3, New Barn for the year 4s, Barton Hall for the year 5s and Grenville House for the year 6s. There are a mixture of physical and mental challenges with the overriding aim for children to overcome these by working together. It's great to see the children all mixing in together and forming new friendships.

Throughout the year, we have forged stronger relationships with the church by holding our annual nativity and also a Christingle and Mother's Day service. Sue Browne, who works closely with the school, has continued to develop links with the church and it has been rewarding to see the children taking an active role in these services. Parents have also been very positive and attendances at these events haven't been high. Our main musical production has moved to the summer term and this year we will be performing 'The Pirates of The Curry Bean'. It is always great to see our KS2 children performing in front of big audiences and having such a presence on stage. A new addition to this year has been our music festivals which we have held termly. Our increase in children learning musical instruments has meant that we have much more to showcase to parents and it has been great to see all the children performing confidently on stage. We have also held a Harvest festival and Spring Concert at school, both of which were well attended.

Fundraising always plays a big part in the calendar and this year has been no exception. The children are always keen to raise money for charitable causes and help others when they can. This year the school has helped raise money for Red Nose Day, NSPCC and also for new play equipment on the field. Our Christmas Fair was our biggest yet and helped to raise a fantastic amount. We have now been able to order our new play equipment which is being installed over the summer term. We still have our summer fair scheduled later in the year as well as a silent auction planned for next term.

The children enjoy a variety of sports during and after school in the summer months; cricket, netball, football, tag rugby, the Exe valley challenge orienteering walk, Exmoor Challenge and athletics. They participate within the local learning community and the federation and have enjoyed great success at various tag and football tournaments. The key stage two children thoroughly enjoy using the tennis courts during the summer term and we all enjoy our wonderful sports day event at the recreation ground; of course this is thanks to the generosity of the committee members of the two organisations.

James Durward-Akhurst, Head of School

Newton St Cyres Church Report

Firstly I want to thank our Rector Revd Katie Cross for her dedication to us and for keeping us moving along, with her teaching and her fresh ideas. Our church life remains much the same; with our faithful church members attending many of our services. The services have stayed the same, hopefully reaching out to what our congregation find the most helpful.

Involvement with the school has been exciting, with many more parents supporting the children when they attend the church, and our Christmas Posada engaged with many families in the village and the school, and we saw a large number of adults and children coming to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Thursday evening prayer continues to be a good time to pray for the needs of individuals, the village, the wider community, and for any problems that there are. Bible study continues as a small group, meeting on alternate Monday afternoons, where we learn a great deal from the Bible and from one another. We would welcome more lively and enquiring minds.

ULOT work hard at fund raising events, and all those involved enjoy great companionship through working together. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the general running of the church this year. Many people work quietly behind the scenes, the cleaners, brass cleaners, coffee makers, flower arrangers and those who work in the churchyard. Thank you to Clive Lawrence and Brian Please for their on-going interest and care of the fabric of the church, and for the exciting things that are beginning to happen there. A huge thank you to Tony Hough for organising the various needs of the churchyard, for his support in planning and leading services, and in many other ways. He is always supportive and reliable. Thank you also to Pita Burt who quietly takes on so many tasks, and supports me in every way.

Andrew Daldorph continues to supply us with quality music, and we especially appreciate his contributions at Open Door when we have the time to sit quietly and listen to his music. He is greatly appreciated. Likewise Sally, George and Imogen Daldorph who also contribute to our services when they are able. Thank you also to Mary Quicke for always finding bell ringers for important occasions. It is always lovely to hear the bells calling us to church.

The church is a focus of Christian spiritual worship in the village and is open daily. It is

outward looking and active, and offers a warm welcome to all who come in. We aim to follow our Mission Statement: Growing the love of God in our Communities.

Sue Browne

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Report

This has been a busy year for the Hall, but the total of 558 bookings in our financial year (that ended on 28 Feb 19) was slightly lower than the 613 bookings the previous year. This reduction arose largely through the Newton Nappies having the opportunity to re-locate to the School, but there was also a small reduction in one-off bookings. More recently, we have a new weekly booking for Pilates classes and the Diet and Fitness classes are being held twice weekly rather than once weekly.

The Hall Committee organised a number of functions with the policy of putting on events that both made a contribution to our village community and raised some funds. A Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Hall was held in June, a hog roast and barbecue was held at the Revels in July, a Concert and Carols evening was held in December, jointly with the Crediton Operatic and Dramatic Society, a Quiz Evening in February and an evening of Film, Poetry and Music in March as part of the Villages in Action programme. All these events proved to be very successful. The regular Bingo sessions organised by Joyce Rooke and her team contributed £1600 to Hall funds, as well as making major contributions to other charitable purposes.

The programme of Hall maintenance and improvement was continued, with re-felting of the remaining flat-roofed areas, re-painting the outside of the Hall and upgrading the urinals. A final payment of £5,700 was made for the new kitchen (total cost, £12,895). Over the last six years some £61,000 has been spent on major items of maintenance and improvement. We have much benefitted from grants totalling £29,000, but the remainder has come from donations, fund raising and from hire income. In 2019 we will upgrade the lighting in our two meeting rooms and carry out internal redecoration. We much appreciate the support from the Parish Council who have awarded a grant of £500 towards the cost of internal decoration.

In the financial year ending 28th Feb 2019, expenditure exceeded income by £6733. This loss was, however, anticipated, with some £14,191 being spent on the improvement programme. These improvements were achieved whilst maintaining our target reserve of £8,000 at all times. Hire income at £12,673 was 7% higher than in the previous year, with the small increase in charges made in July 2018 more than

compensating for the small drop in number of bookings. Fund raising, including bingo, contributed £3229. Money in our accounts on 28th February 2019 totalled £14,468.

We much appreciate the help that we have had from the Parish Council. Donations were received in relation to the Car Park and the cost of wi-fi. The Council also pay for mowing the Hall surrounds. A payment of £750 was made by the Hall (and matched by the Parish Council) to the fund held by the Parish Council to cover the costs of periodic resurfacing of the car park or other major repairs to the car park.

During the year Sandy Fleming retired as Vice Chairman and was succeeded in that role by Roger Furniss. Sandy was thanked for many years service to the Hall and was elected Vice President. Heather Barlow and Christine Burrows joined the Management Committee. We have a very effective Committee, but would welcome new members. In particular we desperately need a person to take on or share the role of Treasurer. Please could anyone who might be interested in taking on this role for our community contact me on rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com.

Roger Wilkins

Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground Club Report

Things go on much as before at the 'Rec' with excellent facilities being provided for local people. The main source of income for the 'Rec' is the bar. Currently this is manned by only two people and we would very much appreciate some more volunteers.

We also hope to enhance the playground. A complete refurbishment is difficult. Although grants are available, it is time-consuming and costly to apply for them. Currently we are hoping to improve the facilities bit by bit using volunteers and our own income rather than grants. Again volunteers would be very welcome.

We are in the process of negotiating an extension of the lease for the 'Rec' site from the Church Commissioners. The current lease expires in 2030 and we hope to extend it to 2050. Unfortunately, this is likely to mean an increased rent.

If you would like to volunteer to help behind the bar or become more involved with the development of the playground, please contact me at john.quicke@yahoo.co.uk.

John Quicke

Communicating With Your Local Councils

Devon County Council

Devon County Council look after many aspects of our lives and have an excellent website (<https://www.devon.gov.uk/>) which is full of helpful information. However these four contact points may be of particular interest:

If you wish to report problems with our roads from potholes to broken signs and lights please use: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

If you have concerns about the safety of a child or young person please contact the County Council Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and give as much information as you can. If a child is at immediate risk contact the police on 999.

To find out about County-wide planning issues from mineral extraction to long-term planning for development you can use this website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/navigation/planning-and-development/>

Devon runs an excellent library service with superb facilities in both Exeter and Crediton. We are also very lucky to have a mobile library service that visits the village on the second Wednesday of the month. More details of this and all their other services can be found on this website: <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena>, where you can also find out how to borrow ebooks.

Mid Devon District Council

Mid Devon also have an excellent website. These three contact points may be of particular interest:

This website: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/do-it-online/> allows you to communicate with MDCC. You can do everything need to do with MDCC from paying council tax, applying for housing benefit to reporting an incident of fly tipping or a dangerous dog.

This website, <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/recycling-rubbish/> covers all issues to do with recycling and rubbish, including schedules for bin collection.

The planning website, <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning/> has all the information you need to know about building works and planning permission. You can also submit, view or comment on applications from this website.

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

The Parish Council welcomes members of the public to all their meetings. The schedule for the next year is shown below. They are all on the 1st Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall Clubroom.

6 June 2019	4 July 2019	1 August 2019
5 September 2019	3 October 2019	7 November 2019
5 December 2019	2 January 2020	6 February 2020
5 March 2020	2 April 2020	7 May 2020

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 7th May 2020 7:00 to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall Clubroom.

We hold surgeries where members of the public can talk to a councillor. These are held in conjunction with Saturday Coffee Mornings in the Parish Hall from 10.30am to noon. The dates for the next year are given below.

1 June 2019	6 July 2019	3 August 2019
7 September 2019	5 October 2019	2 November 2019
7 December 2019	4 January 2020	1 February 2020
7 March 2020	4 April 2020	2 May 2020

The Parish council has both a website and a Facebook page. The website, <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/newtonstcyres>, contains copies of Minutes, Policies and other important Council documents. Every month the agenda for the forthcoming meeting is posted on the website. There is also a link to the Footpaths Map here. The Parish Council Facebook page is interactive. It contains up-to-date information on Planning Applications received and any Road Closure notices etc.

There are Parish Notice Boards at the locations below. These display important Parish Council documents and are also available for local organisations to use. They are not available for commercial advertising.

Langford - Half Moon

Central Newton St Cyres: - Sand Down Lane, Tytheing Close and the Village Green

Sweetham - Station Cross

Smallbrook

Community Magazine

The Newton Wonder community magazine is produced monthly (with the exception of January) and can be delivered to your house. The magazine is independent from the Parish Council, although you will find a summary of our monthly meetings there.

If you would like to receive a copy please contact Gerry on 851504. The magazine is always looking for articles, coming events etc. Copy date is 15th of the month. All articles should be sent to the Editor, editor@newtonwonder.net . The magazine also supports a village website, www.newtonwonder.net this is updated regularly by the editor of the Newton Wonder.

