

CRINGLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The basic work of the Parish Council has continued steadily through the year. Verges have been cut around the village. Trees have been trimmed. Football pitches, cricket squares and tennis courts have been maintained. The Pavilion and The Willow Centre are cared for and hired. The staff has worked tirelessly on everyone's behalf. New staff have been appointed. Sam Henry is assistant clerk and looks after the hiring of the Parish's facilities and Mark Dye is a new caretaker. Mark Dingle has joined Chris Meeson, the senior grounds man, and an apprentice, Alex Pates has started training. The Council itself remains at full strength. Its main roles are to formulate policy and see that it is implemented.

The precept was increased for the second time in two years. This was to fund the urgent replacement of streetlights, which are no longer fit for purpose, and to pay for the refurbishment of the Pavilion following several years of neglect. The children's play area at Oakfields Road was reopened after a refit that took longer than expected, and the zip-wire was replaced. The play areas on Round House Park are monitored weekly and seem in good condition. Sadly, the Council has still not been able to take on the playing field by The Willow Centre or the associated open spaces.

The Council and The Hub have organized a children's cinema club and shown several films during the year. Thanks are due to Councillor Trevis Chiles for this initiative. Plans are well advanced for an event to mark the signing of the Armistice and the end in 1918 of fighting on the Western Front. More information will be available over the summer.

The Parish has produced a new Emergency Plan so that we know how to cope with a major incident hitting the village or the immediately surrounding area. On the other hand, the Council is still working on plans to deal with the problems of parking around the village. Double yellow lines have appeared or been extended on various roads, while parking on the flyover will become time-limited. Much remains to be done. Some form of residents' parking is under discussion with the District Council. The risk of a serious accident at the intersection of Inwood Road and Keswick Road has worsened, but the Council is working closely with the County Council to find a solution. Highways England consulted residents, as well as the Council, about how to manage traffic through the Thickthorn Interchange. Their decision is expected soon.