

Puddletown Area Parish Council (PAPC)

Chair's Report 2019-2020

(May 2019 – April 2020)

1. Introduction

The year 2019-2020 has been an interesting year to be Chair of the Puddletown Area Parish Council (PAPC). This has been the first year of a new Council, following the elections of May 2019, which offers challenges in itself. A new Chair, new councillors taking their seats, and a new Clerk of the Parish Council provided an interesting start for the Council.

A new governance structure was put in place for Dorset, with the former District and County Councils merged into Dorset Council. This also offered the PAPC a series of challenges (see below).

It has also been a year of major, unexpected events. The winter saw a number of flooding events along the River Piddle requiring urgent action. We then had the many and varied impacts and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the normal business of a Parish Council, 2019-2020 has therefore been a very busy, sometimes very busy year. It has certainly been a challenging year to be Parish Council Chair for the first time.

This report attempts to summarise the work of the PAPC, and to highlight the challenges. I hope the report gives you some idea of what a Parish Council does, and of the role of a Parish Councillors. In my humble opinion, this set of Councillors and the Clerk have worked extremely hard in 2019-2020, and have achieved much. My thanks to them for their many and varied efforts.

If you, as a resident of one of the four parishes of the PAPC (Athelhampton, Burleston, Puddletown, Tolpuddle) have any questions on this report, or other issues that you would like to raise you are very welcome write to us, to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to put your case, or attend any meeting of the PAPC where your views will be welcome.

1.1 The New Council

Following the local elections of May 2019 the new Parish Council met for the first time on the 14th May 2019.

The elected Councillors were Peter Churchill (Puddletown), Martin Cooke (Tolpuddle), Philip Drake (Puddletown), Paul Langdon (Puddletown), John Ridout (Puddletown), Alan Sheppard (Puddletown) and Peter Walton (Tolpuddle).

Sylvia Salcedo (Puddletown) was co-opted at that May meeting.

Peter Churchill was elected Chair; Alan Sheppard and Peter Walton were elected Vice Chairs.

Over the year a number of new Councillors were co-opted onto the Council: Mike Brown (Puddletown), Julian Hubbuck (Puddletown), Nicky Ling (Tolpuddle), and Sue Oakley (Burleston).

Unfortunately, we also lost a number of Councillors through resignation: Martin Cooke (Tolpuddle), Paul Langdon (Puddletown), and Sue Oakley (Burleston). We thank them for their contributions.

This means that the PAPC is considerably short of Councillors, with no Councillors representing Athelhampton and Burleston at the current time. As a result, at the end of the reporting period Athelhampton misses 2 Councillors, Burleston 2 Councillors, Puddletown 3 Councillors and Tolpuddle 1 Councillor. In addition, women and young people remain under-represented. **Please consider if you would like to undertake the role of Parish Councillor; we need more volunteers and would welcome your participation.**

1.2 Clerk

Over the past few years, the position of Clerk to the Parish Council has passed through several hands. The last two Clerks (Shirley Langdon and Colin Hampton) helped us greatly in stabilising a difficult situation for the Parish Council, putting us back on the road to recovery. We offer both of them our greatest thanks.

Unfortunately, neither were able to take on the job on a long-term basis.

We have, however, now found a permanent Clerk, Anna Bendall. I think I speak for the entire Parish Council when I state that Anna has undertaken a fantastic job for the PAPC this year. She came into the job with little experience of clerking but has very quickly become an indispensable part of the Council. She has initiated many improvements and helped us through a busy and difficult year. She is also undertaking the Clerk qualification, CILCA, which will greatly benefit us in managing the PAPC.

1.3 Meetings

The PAPC meets every month on the second Tuesday of the month. All meetings start at 19:00. The meetings are open to all.

In 2019-2020 there was also one extraordinary meeting held on the 28th October 2019 to discuss the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan.

Normally meetings are held alternatively at Puddletown and Tolpuddle Village Halls. The meetings, their agendas and associated minutes are advertised on all Parish Notice boards, as well as the PAPC Web Site and on the PAPC social media site. They are also promoted on local community Facebook pages.

It is normal practice that the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, along with the Puddletown Annual Parish Meeting, is held in May of each year. At these meetings the officers of the PAPC (Chair, Vice Chairs) are voted for, reports are given on key activities and the thoughts and concerns of residents heard. It was decided by the PAPC that these meeting should be held only when it is possible to hold 'face-to-face' meetings; currently, due to COVID-19, this is still not possible according to government guidelines. We will hold the AGM as soon as government guidelines permit.

1.4 Working Groups

The PAPC operated three Working Groups during the 2019-2020 reporting period.

The Finance and Budget Working Group principally focussed on preparing the annual budget for the Parish Council.

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan Working Group focussed on preparing the Neighbourhood Plan for Puddletown.

The Projects Working Group focussed on defining how funds held by the PAPC can be spent on community issues.

The Terms of Reference for both Workings Groups are provided on the PAPC web site. Further details are provided in the relevant sections below.

1.5 Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DATPC)

The PAPC is a member of the DATPC, with Councillors Peter Churchill and John Ridout the nominated contact points.

A proposal to deal with agricultural traffic on minor roads was proposed by the PAPC to the annual meeting of the DATPC.

1.6 The Impact of COVID-19

The PAPC continued to function after the March 2020 COVID-19 lock down, and associated government guidelines as to how to act. Meetings, however, were conducted on-line, with the PAPC purchasing a Zoom contract. These meetings remain open to the public and are advertised in the normal manner. The Council has become quite practiced at on-line meetings now, and COVID has not impacted its work, although it has brought a number of challenges (aside from the postponement of the PAPC AGM).

These range from helping to assure that key events were managed properly, such as supporting the decision by the organisers to cancel the Martyrs Festival in Tolpuddle in 2020 through to helping to put in place a scheme of volunteers to support those in need due to COVID-19 in the four parishes (further details below) and the cancellation of VE Day celebrations.

1.7 New Dorset Council

The May 2019 elections saw the formation of the new Dorset Council, combining the functions of the previous District and County Councils. The re-organisation did not impact greatly the role of the Parish Council, but it has impacted the ability of the PAPC in doing its business. Processes, contacts, and approaches all changed with the re-organisation. This impacted everything from planning through to highway management. The PAPC role in planning applications has been a particular bone of contention, with PAPC positions on different planning applications regularly ignored with no reason given. Things have yet to completely settle down.

The PAPC Dorset Councillor is Emma Parker, who reports regularly (written report, and occasionally in person) to the PAPC.

1.8 Surveying Residents' Concerns

The Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan, having undertaken a survey of residents needs plus a number of parish meetings, provides a good basis for understanding the needs and concerns of Puddletown Parish residents. The Neighbourhood Plan is reported upon below but will need to be updated within a few years if it is approved. This will require a new survey of resident's needs.

The Puddletown Annual Parish Meeting, last held in May 2019, is also a good conduit for receiving the needs and concerns of Puddletown residents. Hopefully the 2020 meeting can be held soon, COVID-19 permitting.

A letter from the PAPC was written to all residents of Athelhampton and Burleston in the summer of 2019 asking them if they had any concerns. This was undertaken due to the fact that Athelhampton and Burleston are not represented by Parish Councillors.

Tolpuddle has a very active Parish Meeting, which provides an excellent means of gathering issues. There is also a good link between the Parish Meeting and the PAPC so that matters of concern can be addressed. Tolpuddle also undertakes a periodic village survey. The next village survey, organised by Councillor Peter Walton, is planned to take place in the autumn of 2020.

There is an opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns at each PAPC meeting. This is regularly used by residents.

2. Police and Community Issues

We are blessed to live in an area that is generally peaceful, with little crime. Police Community Support Officer, Alison Donnison regularly reports to the PAPC on police and community issues, with often little to report.

However there have been incidents throughout the year. Puddletown Forest continues to be a concern, theft of property from gardens and windowsills occurs on occasion and illegal cold caller sometimes pass through the parishes.

The police regularly tell us that it is very important that all crimes are reported to the police.

3. Communication

The Parish Council is aware that many residents are not fully cognisant of what it does, and how the Council Tax funds allocated to the PAPC are spent. Greater emphasis on communication has therefore been one of the priorities of the PAPC in 2019-2020:

- A regular monthly piece in the Parish Magazine has been started that summarises the main issues under consideration by the Parish Council.
- The PAPC web site has been moved to a more professional home, its format has been improved and it is regularly updated. The web site can be found at: <http://www.puddletownareaparishcouncil.co.uk>.
- A social media presence has been created for the PAPC so that it has its own Facebook page. Through this, messages are regularly passed to the local community Facebook pages.

- New notice boards have been installed in Puddletown and Tolpuddle parishes and will soon be installed in Athelhampton and Burleston parishes. These are bigger than the previous versions, allowing the Parish Council to publicise information more easily.
- A communications policy was approved (please see the PAPC web site for details).

There is still some way to go however. One thought under consideration has been the re-start of a regular Newsletter delivered to all residents.

Councillor Sylvia Salcedo has taken responsibility for PAPC communication during the reporting period (Note: Sylvia Salcedo has subsequently resigned as Parish Councillor, and the PAPC is looking to find someone to take over the communications work).

4. Planning

The PAPC role in the planning process is to represent the local community interest in any planning application related to the four parishes. It is not a statutory role, the PAPC has no decision-making role in any planning application. The Parish Council can and should, however, consider all planning applications from the local point of view, but can only comment on strictly planning related matters.

In 2019 – 2020 the PAPC dealt with approximately 30 planning applications ranging from fairly straightforward house extensions to controversial proposals for oil wells (the Council objected) and unusual proposals to adopt a phone box (the Council supported).

In addition, the PAPC has initiated planning enforcement against the current use of the old hairdressers on the Green, Puddletown.

The biggest legacy that the PAPC is currently dealing with is the planning permission given for 41 residences at Three Lanes Puddletown. This building project raises particular concerns for traffic and parking around the First School, particularly during school dropping off and picking up times. The Council is trying to liaise with the builder and Dorset Council to mitigate this situation.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds are generated from builders who are building new residences. Part of those funds (15% before the approval of a Neighbourhood Plan, and 25% after the approval of a Neighbourhood Plan) come to the Parish Council. These funds are to be used for community good and have to be spent within 5 years of reception. The 'Projects' section below describes the Council's progress with allocating and spending those funds.

5. Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has responsibility for initiating and managing the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan. The PAPC appoints a Working Group to undertake the work

In late 2018 the Neighbourhood Plan was halted as the Working Group resigned en masse following the PAPC's support for the Three Lanes planning application. It was re-started following the election of the PAPC in May 2019, when the Parish

Council decided that the Neighbourhood Plan would benefit Puddletown, and that it supported the Neighbourhood Plan's objectives.

A Working Group was appointed to run the Neighbourhood Plan on a day-to-day basis, under the authority of the PAPC. Councillor Peter Churchill was nominated Chair of the Working Group, supported by Councillor John Ridout, and local residents Jane Cox, Janey Gordon, Janet Ranger, supported by the Clerk. The Terms of Reference of this Working Group are available on the PAPC Web Site.

A draft plan was produced, with the great support of the Neighbourhood Plan's contractor Jo Witherden. This was discussed and supported by the PAPC at an exceptional Parish Council meeting on the 28th October 2020. The PAPC also agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan could proceed onto the 'Regulation 14' consultation of all parish residents.

The 'Regulation 14' consultation ran from November 2019 to early January 2020. Over 70 comments were received, and the draft Plan was updated accordingly.

Following the update, the next steps in the Neighbourhood Plan process will be:

- A second consultation of Parish residents, undertaken by Dorset Council called 'Regulation 16'.
- A review by an independent consultant
- The referendum on the draft Plan by residents of the Parish.

At present, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government will not allow the referendum to take place before May 2021. If this guidance changes it is hoped that the referendum can take place earlier.

6. Rights of Way

Footpaths, bridleways, roads, drains, and hedges are reviewed by the PAPC at each meeting. Discussion includes their condition, fly tipping and blockages.

The Council also continues to see if rights of way need to be extended, with a public right of way linking Puddletown and Athelhampton being one ambition; this would complete the Martyr's walk from Tolpuddle to Dorchester.

Councillor Phil Drake, with the Clerk, worked with the Surgery to develop a series of 'Health Walks' around Puddletown. This should result in the gravelling of the footpath along Doctor's Lane.

Councillor Phil Drake is the point of contact for this issue on the Parish Council.

7. Recreation Areas

8.1 Inspections

Each of the three play areas under the management of the PAPC are formally inspected annually by a qualified inspector. The reports are reviewed at a PAPC meeting, and relevant actions taken to address concerns raised.

In addition, following a series of accidents at Puddletown Recreation Area, a fortnightly inspection of each of the three recreation areas is undertaken by local residents, who are paid to undertake their role. This inspection follows a set check list.

8.2 Closures Due To COVID-19

Following government guidance all three play areas were closed due to the COVID-19 virus.

In addition, the public toilets at the rear of the Sports Pavilion were also closed.

8.3 Orchard Meadow Recreation Area

This year saw a major refurbishment of the Orchard Meadow Recreation Area. This was mainly funded by grants raised by Councillor Martin Cooke.

Councillor Martin Cooke was the point of contact for Orchard Meadow at the beginning of the year. With his resignation Councillor Nicky Ling took over the role.

8.4 Puddletown Recreation Area

This year has seen a consolidation of the Play Area, with much work being undertaken to keep the area attractive and the equipment safe. The plans for the Skate Park are currently on hold until the Play Park has achieved its objectives.

Following two unfortunate accidents with manhole covers in the Recreation Area these and others have been replaced.

The main focus of the Recreation Area this year has been to support the Cricket Club, whose success has seen their First Team promoted to a league that requires them to play on grass rather than an artificial pitch, and for them to re-orient the pitch. For the summer of 2019, the Cricket First Team had to play their home games away from Puddletown due to these rules. Plans are now being prepared to make the cricket pitch meet the needs of the rules, however this will take a lot of funding and planning. The PAPC is supporting the Cricket Club with some funding as well as moral and administrative help.

The issue of dogs on the Recreation Areas has continued throughout the year. There has been some confusion on the rules. Dogs are permitted on the Recreation Area, as long as they are on leads, and away from the sports fields. This rule has been implemented because the situation of dog mess on the Recreation Area got very bad at one stage, making the sports pitches unplayable, including for children. The rule is set by Dorset Council as a prerequisite to get the support of a Dog Warden, who can then patrol the area. It is recognised that this has upset some residents, but the action has worked. It is worth noting, however, that the issue of dog mess has also now been raised for the public footpath that runs through the Middle School.

Councillor Alan Sheppard is the point of contact for the Puddletown Community Play Park Project, the Play Area, and the Recreation Ground.

Councillors Phil Drake and Alan Sheppard are the points of contact for the Puddletown Recreation Improvement and Development charity, that manages the Sports Pavilion.

8.5 Butt Close Play Area

The Butt Close Play Area has been neglected for some years. The PAPC has now started an initiative to improve it.

A survey of residents found that the main need for the Play Area is for younger children. A slide from Orchard Meadow has been moved there, and a plan is being developed for the area. The plan will be made available for public consultation before being implemented.

Councillor Alan Sheppard is the point of contact for the Play Area.

8. Traffic and Parking

9.1 Car Parking

Car parking has been a major issue for the Parish Council this year. It has been a focus of the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan and has been an issue raised at Parish Council meetings with respect to parking around the First and Middle Schools, Puddletown High Street and the Main Road Tolpuddle.

White lines have been implemented by Dorset Council at the request of the Parish Council around the Green and the Greenacres junction in Puddletown to improve safety at key road junctions where visibility is poor.

Road markings in Tolpuddle are not favoured by residents, so this solution has not been applied there.

Discussions are on-going with Dorset Council, the First School, and the police to improve the parking situation around the First School, particularly during drop off and pick up times. Discussions are also underway with the Three Lanes Way developer, Wyatt Homes, to try to ameliorate the situation when the Three Lanes Way development starts.

9.2 Traffic Calming

Traffic speed through the four parishes has been an issue throughout the year. A number of initiatives have been started to address this.

'Slow' signs were written on the road at the entrance to Puddletown village on the Athelhampton road.

A speed group was proposed by the PAPC, whereby a group of at least 6 residents volunteer for the group and are trained to use a speed gun. A Puddletown resident has volunteered to lead the group, and volunteers were found to join the group. The Parish Council is now waiting for the group to start work.

The Parish Council initiated the idea whereby children at the First School would design sign urging drivers to reduce speed. These signs would be placed throughout the four parishes. The Head of the First School has agreed to the initiative, and the legality of where the signs can be placed has been checked. However, the closure of the school due to COVID-19 has hampered the project. A Puddletown resident has now offered to lead this project.

A Puddletown resident noted that the 30mph zone on the Coombe is difficult to see and need to start further away from the Middle School in order to give drivers the opportunity to slow down. A petition was raised and submitted to Dorset Council asking for the extension to the 30mph zone, which has been approved, and the signs are now in the process of being moved.

The residents of Little Waterston and Troy Town have asked that the speed limit through their residential area be reduced from 60mph to 30mph. The Parish Council has asked Dorset Council to do this, and a speed check is now planned for the area.

A speed indication device (SID) has been available for some time for use by the PAPC. The location is regularly swapped between Tolpuddle and Puddletown. Councillor Alan Sheppard and a Tolpuddle resident move the SID. However, the Tolpuddle resident now wishes to retire from this role, so we are looking for another volunteer.

9. Emergency Response

This year the Council has given attention to emergency response. Part of this was planned, with two Flood Wardens appointed, whilst part was forced upon the Council by the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.1 Flood Wardens and Flooding

The PAPC appointed a Flood Warden in the reporting year. Councillor Julian Hubbuck was appointed to this role. The Flood Warden's role is to prepare an emergency plan and be the point of contact in case of flooding. A draft plan is in preparation, in liaison with the Environment Agency.

This was called into action twice during the winter of 2019-2020 when the River Piddle flooded, with particular threat to residences and businesses around the Blue Vinny.

In February 2020, a second volunteer Flood Warden was appointed, Evie Holcombe. With her appointment it was decided that she would focus on Burleston and Tolpuddle, whilst Julian Hubbuck would focus on Athelhampton and Puddletown.

7.2 COVID-19 Volunteer Group

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 on the 16th March, a group including representatives from the Parish Council (Councillors Peter Churchill and Julian Hubbuck with Rev. Sarah Hillman and Penny Ruddock) met to discuss community support.

It was agreed to set up a group the aim of which will be to assure that people in isolation get the food and medicines that they need, and that they do not suffer from loneliness. This was publicised by a leaflet to all residences.

Councillor Julian Hubbuck and the Rev. Sarah Hillman became the coordinators of this group, that quickly increased to over 60 volunteers.

The work of the group also expanded to control entrance to the shop and the surgery, following request for help from both.

The Council also gave a grant of £500 to the Puddletown Charity to support people in need in the four parishes.

10. Projects

As is mentioned in the Finance and Accounts section below, the Parish Council receives monies from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which are from

levies raised on housing developers upon starting a housing development. CIL funds have to be spent on initiatives that benefit the community, and have to be spent within five years of reception.

A first meeting of Community Groups and residents was held in January 2019 organised by Councillor Peter Churchill. This established a first, draft list of priorities, and was submitted to the Parish Council. A follow up meeting was organised by Councillor Sylvia Salcedo in November 2019; this meeting detailed and extended the priority list.

The Parish Council has now established a Working Group, chaired by Councillor Sylvia Salcedo, to define and agree the projects to be supported (Note: Councillor Salcedo has now sadly resigned from the Council, and Councillor John Ridout has taken over the role as Chair). Councillors Peter Churchill, Phil Drake, Nicky Ling and Peter Walton also sit on the Working Group, supported by the Clerk. The Terms of Reference for this Working Group, plus details of its work are provided on the PAPC Web Site.

A dedicated budget line for community projects has also been created, holding the CIL funds plus a part of the Council's General Reserve.

11. Other Issues

A number of other issues have been addressed by the PAPC this year:

11.1 Dorset National Park

The PAPC received a presentation about the potential to create a National Park in Dorset. The benefits, including for planning, seem attractive, however it seems that the four parishes are on the edge of the proposed National Park Area. The PAPC position has been to support the idea, as long as all four parishes are completely contained within the park.

11.2 S106 Land Between Greenacres and Three Lanes

To the west of the Greenacres estate there is a piece of land that will buffer the estate from the new Three Lanes estate. This land is protected by an S106 agreement signed between Dorset Council and the landowner. However, it seems that the new Three Lanes plan by Wyatt Homes for 41 residences impinges on the S106 land. This issue has been taken up by the PAPC, and a Puddletown resident with Dorset Council and Wyatt Homes. The situation has not yet been resolved and is currently with the ombudsman.

11.3 The Trees on the Coombe

The area of trees in the Coombe, to the south of the Middle School was gifted to the Parish Council some years ago. This makes for an attractive and typical Dorset 'holloway'. However, the gift now comes at a cost. It was found in 2019 after a survey by tree surgeons engaged by the Parish Council that the trees were in urgent need of maintenance, and that some in fact needed to be felled. This has cost the PAPC over £6,000.

11.4 Puddletown Forest Access

Following a series of accidents in Puddletown Forest where the emergency services had difficulty locating the injured persons, the owners of the forest and

the Forestry Commission were approached to see if suitable signage could be installed at each forest entrance. This discussion is on-going.

11.5 Puddletown Defibrillator

The PAPC supported the purchase and installation of a defibrillator, now located at the Puddletown Village Hall. Improved signage concerning the Tolpuddle and Puddletown defibrillators were implemented this year to help people locate the devices.

11.4 Climate Emergency

In 2020 Dorset Council declared a 'climate emergency'. This was raised by a number of members of the public at a PAPC meeting, and it was agreed that the PAPC would always take account of the importance of the environment, the parishes' biodiversity and the climate in all its actions.

11.5 Tolpuddle Festival

The 2019 Tolpuddle Festival was considered a success, although issues of cones indicating no car parking, particularly towards Southover, have been raised with the organisers.

Sadly, due to COVID-19, the 2020 festival was cancelled.

11.6 Improved IT in the Village Halls

The PAPC has initiated an analysis to see if both Tolpuddle and Puddletown Village Halls could benefit from the use of improved information technology (IT). It was decided that the acquisition of broad band plus modern projection equipment would both improve PAPC meetings (facilitating them becoming paperless) and would make both Village Halls more attractive for rentals.

COVID-19 has slowed the progress in implementing the improved IT, however this will be started again as soon as possible.

11.7 Community Café

The management of the Community Café changed hands this year. To facilitate matters the PAPC agreed to host the Community Café funds until such time as it was able to start its own bank account.

12. Finance and Accounts

9.1 Account Balance

At the end of the financial year 2019-2020 the PAPC bank account held £78,128.88, with £77,387.43 received and £80,691.56 spent. £30,135.35 of the funds held in the account are a General Reserve, £48,003.53 are Earmarked Reserves covering identified future expenditure areas ranging from the Puddletown and Orchard Meadow play parks through to the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan and CIL projects.

The full accounts are given on the PAPC web site.

9.2 Income

The main income for the Parish Council comes from the 'Precept', which is a proportion of residents' Council Tax. In 2019-2020 this totalled £44,000.00. In

addition £1.00 was received from the rental of the Sports Pavilion and £28,661.48 was received from grants (Neighbourhood Plan, Play Parks), income from the Community Café, VAT re-funds and CIL funds.

9.3 Expenditure

£38,376.76 was spend on Running Costs (ranging from the Clerk's salary to training, communications and IT), Assets (play and recreation areas maintenance, other assets such as the Coombe), Community Social Infrastructure (see below) and Projects and Other Community Support (Puddletown Community Play Park Project, S137 grants – see below – and the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan).

9.3 Grants

The Parish Council gives grants to a number of organisations every year in order to help them support the community to a total of £3,150. These include grants to the Puddletown and Tolpuddle Village Halls, support to the churchyard maintenance at St Mary's Puddletown and St. John's Tolpuddle, and support to the Community Library in Puddletown.

In addition, the Parish Council has a further budget of £2,000 to support other community based organisations within the 4 parishes, upon request (called 'S137 grants'). In 2019-2020 a number of these grants were given; Puddletown Recreation Improvement and Development (PRIDE) (to improve the Sports Pavilion), Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) (to help to purchase a new computer that will be used by the CAB at the Puddletown doctor's surgery), Puddletown Charity (to support people in need due to COVID-19) and Puddletown Munchkins (to support overheads) all received grants this year. The total S137 grants given this exceeded the £2,000.

9.4 Audit

The PAPC accounts are audited on an annual basis by an independent, professional auditor. The audit report for this year was very positive, with 1 high significance comment (on over-claiming VAT), 2 medium level comments, 3 low level comments, and 1 comment for information only.

The full audit report can be viewed on the PAPC web site.

9.5 Finance Working Group

The Finance Working Group prepares a draft annual and multi-annual budget for consideration by the full Parish Council.

Councillors Peter Churchill, Alan Sheppard and Peter Walton sit on the Finance Working Group, supported by the Clerk.

Peter Churchill

Chair, Puddletown Area Parish Council