



# Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council



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# Annual Report May 2010

## Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council Annual Report 2010

The Parish Council would hope that as the parish newsletter, 'Keeping YOU Informed', is published regularly and the web site is always up to date, residents are already well informed as to the Council's activities throughout the year. However, there are some areas to highlight from the past year's activities.

Your Parish Council's objectives this year were

- \* to continue focusing on the issues raised in the Parish Plan,
- \* to continue progress towards accreditation as a Quality Council,
- \* to establish working relationships and arrangements with the assorted departments in the new Shropshire Council, and
- \* to play our part in the successful launch of the Local Joint Committee.

In addition, the Council set out to competently handle the "extras" that come along, such as planning requests, Shropshire Council consultation documents, and residents' issues. All this to be achieved within what is a tight budget, governed by the desire to keep the Precept (the amount residents' pay to have a Parish Council) at a reasonable level.

### • Parish Plan

As far as the Parish Plan is concerned, it's probably worth commenting on a few of the key areas.

Firstly, on the question of speeding traffic in our community, the Council

- \* continues to have a dialogue with the Police and the appropriate Shropshire Council's department including Highways;
- \* arranged for speeding to be the main item on the agenda at the Local Joint Committee held in Welshampton during January;
- \* arranged for the Safer Roads Partnership to conduct speed measurements in three separate locations in the parish;
- \* and, most significantly, arranged a petition which was signed by over 150 residents and village users.

To what avail?

Well, in truth, the speed measurements and low accident statistics in our community mean that the parish is low down on the list of Shropshire Council priorities for speed reducing activities. Also the Council simply does

## Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

### Welshampton Ward

Margaret Evans  
Ruth Evans  
Richard Hall  
Caroline Hamilton  
Sarah Jefferies  
Ian Yates

### Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton  
Chris Symes (Chair)

Councillors can be contacted  
by letter, phone or email through the Clerk.

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## Meeting Dates for the Parish Council

Wednesday 23 June  
Wednesday 28 July  
Wednesday 25 August  
Wednesday 22 September  
Wednesday 27 October  
Wednesday 24 November  
Wednesday 15 December

All meetings are held at Welshampton Parish Hall  
and start at 7pm.

The press and general public are welcome to attend.

Members of the public are invited to address  
the Council before meetings between 7pm and 7.15pm.

## Receipts and Payments Account 2009/2010

|  | 2009/10<br>£     | 2008/09          |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Payments</b>                            |                  |                  |
| Parish Maintenance                         |                  |                  |
| Street Lighting                            | 1,067.22         | 641.40           |
| Hire of Skips                              | 743.20           | 1,564.10         |
| Bus Shelter Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance | 860.00           | 829.00           |
| Parish Plan Projects and Churchyards       | 1,169.00         | 720.04           |
| Establishment                              |                  |                  |
| Insurance                                  | 513.61           | 393.97           |
| Subscriptions                              | 338.93           | 279.65           |
| Administration                             |                  |                  |
| Clerk                                      | 4,064.13         | 4,061.97         |
| Administration Expenses & Audit Fees       | 651.08           | 886.77           |
| Training                                   | 80.00            | 194.00           |
| Newsletter and Website                     | 736.23           | 881.15           |
| IT Equipment                               | 0.00             | 662.97           |
| VAT  | 417.91           | 577.23           |
|  | <b>10,641.31</b> | <b>11,692.25</b> |
| <b>Income</b>                              |                  |                  |
| Precept                                    | 7,645.00         | 6,870.00         |
| Grants                                     | 700.00           | 1,029.64         |
| Interest                                   | 3.77             | 163.97           |
| VAT Refund                                 | 577.23           | 310.68           |
| Misc                                       | 228.00           | 115.00           |
|  | <b>9,154.00</b>  | <b>8,489.29</b>  |
| Excess of Payments over Receipts           | <b>1,487.31</b>  | <b>3,202.96</b>  |

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

### Current Assets

#### Bank Balances

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Current Account | 1,176.74        | 312.82          |
| Deposit Account | <u>3,709.02</u> | <u>6,060.25</u> |
|                 | <b>4,885.76</b> | <b>6,373.07</b> |

Formal Audit/Annual Return includes fixed assets of £51,944 as a notional value for Bus Shelters (funded by grants) and 30 Street Lights.

not have the funds to “go it alone”. Shropshire Council still assures the Council that the Balmer (the B5063 towards Wem), will be considered this year for an extension of the 30mph zone, and the A495 right through the parish has been identified as a high priority for action on speed control. Unfortunately, at this stage the Council has not been advised what this action will be. It has not given up on the speeding issue, and sincerely hopes that that the accident which we all dread, and which will force Shropshire Council into amending its priorities, does not happen.

The Community Green Day was held at the Parish Hall in February, when nearly 400 people attended the displays by assorted exhibitors with an environmental relevance. This was intended to be a one-off event in response to the community request for local information on “green” issues, and the feedback after the event was most positive, suggesting the objective had been achieved.

Two other Parish Plan comments. The car park behind the school created by the Mainwaring Family as part of the development of the farm there, was not being used by the school due to legal issues at the Local Education Authority. The Council initiated a meeting of the interested parties and hopes that the solution of the Parish Council taking on the responsibility for the car park is the way forward and ensures this free, excellent facility is properly used.

And finally on the Parish Plan, it is sad to report that the youth club in Welshampton is no longer active, so this year the Parish Council will have another look at what it can do to facilitate, or encourage, a replacement or alternative. Whatever it is, it will need active involvement from adult residents. A possible help, at least at certain times of the year, is that the Council has recently established that the sports court at the Parish Hall is the responsibility of the Parish Council. (Over the last few years it has suffered from a degree of neglect as it was falling between the Parish Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council). It is the intention to smarten up the sports court, and expand its use.

#### • Quality Council

Our progress towards Quality Council accreditation is good. This award gives a Parish Council the opportunity to take on certain services from County level to Parish level, if required. The Council is not sure that this will become the objective but the ideals within the Quality Council scheme are worth striving for as it will show residents that they have a very well run Parish Council. The focus this year will be on promoting citizenship

and this has already started with the Chair and / or the Parish Clerk giving talks to local groups and at the school. However, there is one stumbling block – one of the accreditation criteria is that a certain percentage of Councillors must be elected onto the Council. That is not the situation with our Council as nearly all of the existing Councillors were co-opted rather than elected. The lack of willing volunteers to fill the few Councillor vacancies that arise is disappointing.

- **Shropshire Council**

It took quite a few months for the new Shropshire Council to sort itself out, but the Parish Clerk knows which person or department to refer to and, to be honest, in some areas it does not really seem like North Shropshire District Council has gone. There are a number of County issues which have been split into north, central and south!

- **Local Joint Committee**

As far as the Local Joint Committee, LJC, is concerned, its first year is just about completed. The Committees were introduced by Shropshire Council as a link between the County and the Parish Councils. Our local committee is made up of representatives from the Councils of Ellesmere Town, Ellesmere Rural, Cockshutt cum Petton and Welshampton and Lyneal, plus the 3 County Councillors covering the area. Selected County Council officers also attend. The purpose behind these officers attending is partly to meet the people their actions impact. The LJC's meetings in the first year were a learning curve but the encouraging news is that it is managing to get a focus on particular issues at the meetings (for example, care for the elderly, speeding, parking) rather than being simply a forum for distribution locally of the funds allocated by Shropshire Council. This year, and next, the annual amount distributed is £28,000. This year the Parish Hall, Welshampton School, the Green Day, and the Welshampton War Memorial have all benefited from this fund.

## **Finances**

The financial outcome for the year was satisfactory with expenditure in line with budget, but income showed a shortfall due to the significant reduction in interest paid by the bank. The balancing of this year's budget was helped by Tudor Griffiths sponsoring the skips for excess household waste provided now on a once a year basis. However, the continued provision of the skips is now being seriously questioned as a result of what happened at Welshampton when rubbish was still left indiscriminately after

the skip was full, resulting in the mess having to be tidied up by a return visit by Tudor Griffiths, the voluntary help of members of the Hall Management Committee, and finally the Chair taking a trailer load to the Whitchurch recycling centre. Residents will agree this is not acceptable.

## **The Parish Council**

Finally, a little bit about the Council itself. It is a non-political Council made up of nine residents, representing Lyneal Ward (*Colemere, Lyneal, Whitemere, Pikesend, Yetchleys, part of Newton and Lyneal end of Lyneal Lane*) or Welshampton Ward (*Welshampton, Breaden Heath, Coptiviney, Hampton Wood, Knowles Lane Bettisfield, Oteley and parts of Newton and Northwood*). Parish Councillors do not get paid and do not get expenses, they occasionally get criticized but seldom receive recognition — not an easy job! However, on your behalf, they put time and effort into the Council for the benefit of the community.

There has been one change of Councillor this year as Bob Daniels, who has been a Councillor for more years than he cares to remember, has recently resigned.

After attending a number of parish council meetings in the 1990's because of his interest in local matters, Bob became a Parish Councillor in 1997, and then was Chairman for four years until 2008 - thirteen years of Public Service. During this time, much has happened in the parish and Bob made a major contribution to ensuring that the Parish Council carried out its duties diligently, and especially fairly, always considering the community as a whole.

Bob had wanted to resign a year ago. However, due to the number of new Councillors on the Council, he agreed to stay on for another year, so that the Council would continue to benefit from his wise counsel. The Parish Council and, it is sure, the whole community would wish to thank Bob for his dedicated service to the public good during the last few years. Thank you Bob, and may you enjoy a long and happy retirement from the Parish Council!

## **Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council**