



# Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council



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# Annual Report May 2011

## Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council Annual Report 2011

It is recommended best practice for Parish Councils to publish an Annual Report and this Parish does so do in May each year. However, with an up to date web site and three issues per year of our newsletter “Keeping You Informed”, it means that this report is simply a review of the past year’s Parish Council activity and a financial summary, rather than be an outlet for any startling new revelations.

Your Parish Council’s objectives this year were broadly as follows –

- To continue taking action on the issues raised within the Parish Plan.
- To formulate a response to the numerous consultation documents issued.
- To consult with residents regarding the development strategy for the Parish.
- To ensure that residents get value for money from the precept.

First though, a brief reminder of how the Parish Council operates. Regular monthly Council Meetings are held in Welshampton Village Hall and these are supplemented by additional Planning Meetings when time schedules demand. The meetings require a quorum of Councillors to be legal, but your Parish Council has an excellent attendance record with all Councillors being present at the majority of meetings. However, much of a Councillor’s Parish work takes place outside of the meetings, mainly in preparation for the meetings by perusing consultation documents and reports which are, in the main, available on line. All the administration, organisation, finance and most of the communication for the Council is carried out by the one paid official, the Parish Clerk Carole Warner. So at this point, on behalf of the Council and the community, I’d like to thank Carole for her excellent support throughout the past year. There are no secrets in the Parish Council and so, as has been stated many times before, all Parish Council Meetings are open to all members of the public.

So, how effective has your Council been this year? Well, there has been one major issue which has affected our performance – the financial cutbacks which Shropshire Council has to make to achieve its budget, and you’ll all be aware of the gloom in the press and coming from Shirehall on this subject. As a result of this cutback, some projects in our Parish are being shelved, and it needs constant vigilance to make sure that Shropshire

## Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

### Welshampton Ward

Ruth Evans  
Peter Gee  
Richard Hall  
Caroline Hamilton  
Sarah Jefferies  
Ian Yates

### Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton  
Chris Symes (Chair)  
Martin Withington

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

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## Meeting Dates for the Parish Council

Wednesday 27 July  
Wednesday 24 August  
Wednesday 28 September  
Wednesday 26 October  
Wednesday 23 November  
Wednesday 14 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 2010/2011

	20010/11 Budget £	2001/11 Actual
<b>Payments</b>		
Parish Maintenance		
Street Lighting	1,085.00	1,026.75
Hire of Skips	450.00	0.00
Bus Shelter Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance	1,130.00	1,105.00
Parish Plan Projects and Churchyards	1,050.00	350.00
Establishment		
Insurance	525.00	529.79
Subscriptions	376.00	292.97
Administration		
Clerk	4,156.00	4,128.64
Administration Expenses & Audit Fees	703.00	952.54
Training	260.00	40.00
Newsletter	800.00	843.57
Contingency	510.00	
VAT	268.63	201.28
	<b>11,313.63</b>	<b>9,470.54</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Precept	9,500.00	9,500.00
Interest	4.00	4.11
VAT Refund	275.22	417.91
Misc	155.00	144.50
	<b>9,154.00</b>	<b>10,066.55</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<b>595.98</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

### Current Assets

#### Bank Balances

Current Account	2,268.61
Deposit Account	3,213.13
	<b>5,481.74</b>

The formal Audit/Annual Return includes £53,502 fixed assets which is the insurance value for Bus Shelters and 30 Street Lights.

Councillors are kept aware of the results of inappropriate cutbacks activity.

As far as the Parish Plan is concerned – well, progress has been made. As well as being on the agenda for every monthly meeting, a full public examination of the plan was carried out at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. The plan is always kept up-to-date on our website and residents are recommended to look at it to monitor the progress.

This year the number of consultation documents which have come to us has been extraordinary, and at the risk of being accused of cynicism, it does seem that whenever major change is happening at the County level, which possibly will include job losses (for example, two years ago unitary; now, the financial squeeze) an explosion of report writing occurs. The following is the list of documents the Parish Council has received in the last twelve months, all requesting a response and so all being read, considered, discussed and answered. No apology is made for using this report to show the list as it does give a significant indication of the wide ranging involvement and influence of your Parish Council. In the broad category of -

#### Health + Welfare

- what is the childcare sufficiency assessment in 2011?
- safeguarding strategy for vulnerable adults in Shropshire.
- interim homelessness strategy for Shropshire in 2011.
- statement of community involvement for Shropshire.
- primary care trust, next steps for mental health care.
- foundation trust, West Midlands ambulance service.
- primary care trust, reconfiguration of Shropshire hospital services.

#### Transport

- winter service review 2010/11.
- parking strategy for Shropshire.
- bus strategy for Shropshire 2011 – 2016.
- local transport plan for Shropshire.

#### Services

- mobile library services in Shropshire.
- empty homes strategy.
- environmental maintenance street cleaning survey.

## Development

- surface water management, guidance for developers.
- type and affordability of housing supplementary planning.
- developer contributions.
- sustainability design.

## Miscellaneous

- local referendum to veto excessive council tax demands.
- spotlight on the Shropshire economy.
- changes to big lottery funding.
- electoral reviews and boundary changes.
- code of practice for agricultural use of poultry manure.

And last, but by no means least

- schools reorganisation.

At last year's Annual Parish Meeting, the topic for discussion was Shropshire Council's second major planning document, Site Allocations and Management of Development, and as a result of this the Parish Council was able to express the wishes of the community for the scale of development in the Parish, in our submission to Shropshire Council. However, it was immediately tested to some degree by an application for the building of 18 affordable houses on what is generally known as the Penstemen site in Welshampton. The Parish Council called an emergency meeting in October, which was well attended by residents, and the result was a strong rejection of this proposal which was subsequently withdrawn. At present there exist no planning permissions on this site.

Back in February the Parish Council hit the front page of the Shropshire Star following its decision to object to a variation of the planning permission given to Tudor Griffiths for landfill operations at its site at Wood Lane. You may recall the headline "Jobs at Risk". This was not a decision the Council took lightly. The following explains why. The original permission granted to Tudor Griffiths. was for 15 years with a cessation date of 31 December 2010. At the time this was considered an 'acceptable timescale'. At the end of December 2010 Tudor Griffiths submitted a planning application to extend the landfill operations to 2035 — a further 25 years. The Parish Council considered the application but decided that the local community had a legitimate and reasonable expectation that landfill operations on the site would cease by the end of December 2010. It also meant that the original 'acceptable timescale' of 15 years would increase to an overall period of 40 years, — this was felt to be unacceptable. Many residents in Colemere had purchased their

properties with the understanding that work would cease in 2010 and that may not now be the case.

As far as the finances are concerned, in comparison to other Parish and Town Councils, Welshampton & Lyneal is relatively small, and so the finances are quite simple. In this report you will find the audited accounts for the last year, with the columns showing budget 2010/11 and actual 2010/11. The figures show that last year the Council's expenditure was within the budget and that it continues to budget prudently, reflected in the fact that there is no increase in precept at household level in the next financial year. You will also note that the reserves at the end of the year are just under £5,500. Included in this figure are several areas of expenditure carried forward either due to timing of payment or ongoing projects. They are £130 for Bus Shelter Cleaning 2010/11, £162 for Street Light Maintenance (January—March 2011), £500 for Parish Plan projects and £200 Parish Path Partnership projects.

Finally, in this report you will find a list of members of your Parish Council and you will see that there are two new Councillors. Representing the Lyneal ward, and replacing Bob Daniels who stood down at the end of the previous year, is Colemere resident Mr Martin Withington who was co-opted in June 2010. Then Mrs Peggy Evans retired from the Council and in December a gift was presented to her in appreciation of her long and dedicated service to the Council and the Community. Her replacement Mr Peter Gee was elected by Councillors under the co-option process to represent the Welshampton ward and all Councillors were most encouraged that it was necessary to have an election to fill the vacancy as a number of residents came forward to be considered.

Chris Symes

Chairman.

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council