



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council



Annual Report May 2009

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The Council has been busy throughout the year and is pleased to be able to report much progress, particularly on a number of areas included in the Parish Plan. With the formal disbandment of the Parish Plan group, the Council has taken over as main driver for the Plan's progression. So we can report as follows:-

- **Communication**

A quick fix was the improvement in communication and there have now been three issues of the Parish newsletter "Keeping You Informed", the web site (www.shrop.net/welshampton) is up and running, and a new notice board erected at the village hall.

- **Speeding Vehicles**

The issue of speeding vehicles in the Parish (a major concern of many residents) continues to be addressed and recent comments by the authorities suggest that we can expect a continued intermittent presence of the Speedvisor near the village hall; a re-launch of the Speedwatch programme, when local volunteers are trained to participate in speed monitoring; and an extension of the 30mph speed limit further along the Balmer. A number of new road signs have been placed in the Parish advising of pedestrians on the carriageway, particularly where our children gather for their school buses.

- **Youth Activities**

Regarding the Youth Club, the Parish Council would like to congratulate the young people of the area who were wholly instrumental in its re-instatement and wish them every success with their weekly sessions.

- **Parish Path Partnership (P3)**

P3 now meets on a monthly basis, in the main a group of six or more keen walkers who have so far been at the assessment stage of the footpaths in the Parish and soon will start on the maintenance of some of the paths and signs. On the whole, our paths network is in good order, with one or two notable exceptions. British Waterways have been contacted regarding the repairs still outstanding to the canal towpath.

- **Welshampton Car Park**

A concern has long been the question of car parking near Welshampton School, and so the Council was pleased when approval was given for a

housing development near the school which will create a car park, although there is not yet a publicised completion date.

- **Public Phone Kiosk**

An unexpected problem arose when BT announced the intended removal of the red call-boxes at Colemere and Hampton Bank, but a campaign resulted in Colemere's box remaining on line and Hampton Bank's being purchased by the Parish Council for £1, to be retained as a landmark.

- **Trip to RAF Shawbury**

There have been comments from some residents regarding the noise of helicopters, and so a trip to RAF Shawbury for residents took place in January. The trip was most interesting and those on the visit learnt of the key role that Shawbury plays in maintaining the safety and security of the nation, whilst working with the local community on any particular noise problems.

- **Shropshire Council**

There were a number of issues associated with the demise of North Shropshire District Council and formation of the Shropshire Council, resulting the Parish Council providing feedback to the Boundaries Commission regarding the new electoral representation and to other responsibilities, such as Planning Policy, and within that, an Affordable Housing Policy.

However, there are some matters where much effort has been made by the Council and involved residents, but at this stage there is still a question mark over the future.

- **Welshampton Church of England Primary School**

First and foremost is the school. Early in 2008 we had the threat of closure and whilst that threat was withdrawn we are still awaiting the Independent Commission's recommendations for the structure of education in schools in Shropshire. The Council will assist the School Improvement Committee in any way possible to ensure the school remains open.

- **The Sun Inn**

Next there is The Sun development. Planning approval was given for alterations at the pub and the erection of a small development of mixed housing, including affordable housing but, presumably because of the current situation in the housing market, the works have not yet commenced.

- **The Penstemon Development**

Also in Welshampton there is what has become known as the Penstemon site. Whilst originally planning permission was granted for a number of detached houses, there has been discussion between the developer and Shropshire Council about changing this to a larger number of affordable and social housing. The Parish Council has yet to be provided with sufficient accurate information to be able to make any comment on this possible development.

The Council appreciates the significance of these three issues in the community and will continue to give them due attention.

- **The Parish Council**

As far as the Parish Council itself is concerned, during the year two Councillors resigned, and our thanks go to Tracey Eccles and Jennifer Wright for their contribution. They were replaced by Ruth Evans and Ian Yates who were both co-opted onto the Council, so the Parish Council is made up as follows:

Lyneal Ward (*Colemere, Lyneal, Whitemere, Pikesend, Yetchleys, part of Newton and Lyneal end of Lyneal Lane*):

Bob Daniels, Lawrence Houghton and Chris Symes

Welshampton Ward (*Welshampton, Breaden Heath, Coptiviney, Hampton Wood, Knowles Lane Bettisfield, Oteley and parts of Newton and Northwood*):

Margaret Evans, Ruth Evans, Richard Hall, Caroline Hamilton, Sarah Jeffries, Ian Yates

The **Parish Clerk** is Carole Warner and all communications should be to her (see back page for contact details.)

Your Parish Councillors serve on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration or expenses from the Council.

Finances

On the finances, the expenditure for the year matched the budget, although there were a number of line by line variables, and the accounts have now been audited. The significant variances over the previous year are administration costs, due to some extent by the Parish Clerk assisting the Village Hall Management Committee for a period of time, and

household waste skips, where the costs have increased by an extraordinary amount in recent times. Next year the Council will need to decide if the precept at the current rate can continue funding these skips.

The reserves include the sum of £366.64 which represents the balance remaining from the Community Council of Shropshire's grant for the Parish Plan. It has been agreed that the Council can retain these funds ready for an appropriate community project.

Our finances were assisted by Shropshire Council providing a laptop and ongoing consumables (printer ink cartridges and paper), and the Ellesmere Economic Development Forum providing a grant for other IT equipment. Together they are facilitating administration savings.

The asset register increased in the main due to an audit of the street lighting.

www.shrop.net/welshampton

The improvement in communication with residents has been covered earlier in the report but mention must be made of the website which is a comprehensive source of information. Meeting agendas, minutes, financial information and documentation required to be published under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 can all be found on the site. The Council believes that the complete range of information available fulfils the aim of its work being totally transparent to the community.

The site is hosted by ShropNET, a free service funded by Shropshire Council, which allows the Council to manage the site itself, adding material as and when required.

If you haven't taken time to take a look, please do. It is well worth it and if you have any suggestions please forward them to the Clerk.

Quality Status

With the formation of the Shropshire Council in April this year, the County has only two tiers of local government. Parish councils will therefore play a greater role in representing their communities and also have the opportunity to take on local services. A key factor in how parish

councils will be able to make the most of these opportunities with Shropshire Council, government agencies, voluntary and community sector groups is proving they are effectively and properly managed with members and officers upholding a high standard of conduct. One way of proving this is accreditation under the Quality Parish and Town Parish Council Scheme. The Scheme aims to ensure there is a benchmark minimum standard for parish and town councils across the country. The Parish Council believes it can already satisfy a number of the required conditions for accreditation and has resolved to work towards meeting the remainder.

Further information on the Scheme can be obtained from any Councillor or the Clerk.

In conclusion, the Parish Council believes that this year good progress has been made on a number of issues affecting the community and enters the next year confident that it will be able to continue to have an influence in helping to achieve the aspirations of the residents of the Parish.

Meeting Dates for the Parish Council

Wednesday 24 June
Wednesday 22 July
Wednesday 26 August
Wednesday 23 September
Wednesday 28 October
Wednesday 25 November
Wednesday 16 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 2008/2009

	2008/09	2007/08
Payments	£	
Parish Maintenance		
Street Lighting	641.40	940.05
Hire of Skips	1,564.10	621.72
Bus Shelter Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance	829.00	570.00
Parish Plan Projects and Churchyards	720.04	2,046.20
Establishment		
Insurance	393.97	384.14
Subscriptions	279.65	191.24
Election Expenses	0.00	156.80
Administration		
Clerk	4,061.97	2,610.60
Administration Expenses & Audit Fees	886.77	928.39
Training	194.00	550.00
Newsletter and Website	881.15	0.00
IT Equipment	662.97	0.00
VAT	577.23	310.68
	<u>11,692.25</u>	<u>9,302.82</u>
Income		
Precept	6,870.00	5,755.00
Grants	1,029.64	198.75
Interest	163.97	478.73
VAT Refund	310.68	404.41
Misc	115.00	715.00
	<u>8,489.29</u>	<u>7,551.89</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	3,202.96	1,757.93

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

Current Assets

Bank Balances

Current Account	312.82	1,179.75
Deposit Account	6,060.25	8,396.28
	<u>6,373.07</u>	<u>9,576.03</u>

Formal Audit/Annual Return includes fixed assets of £9,200 as a notional value for Bus Shelters (funded by grants) and 30 Street Lights at £38,400

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

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

Lyneal Ward

Bob Daniels
Lawrence Houghton
Chris Symes (Chair)

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

Clerk: Carole Warner,
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