



Annual Report July 2014

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

For further information please contact the Clerk:
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It is recommended good practice that each Parish Council publishes an annual parish report for its community. However, in these days of a three-times-a-year newsletter and an up-to-date web site, it does mean that this report will not reveal any new information about the Council's activities, but will simply be a resume of what has been reported beforehand.

The main activities for the year in question (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014) were:-

Issues arising from the Parish Plan.

During the year it became apparent that the Parish Plan needed updating, not only because many of the issues in the old plan had been addressed, but also any plan more than five years old could be considered "out of date" if being used for evidence when, say, planning applications are under discussion. Therefore a Parish Plan refresh survey was carried out with all households receiving a copy, and the results of which will become next year's working document.

Issues associated with the landfill site and quarry.

A number of operational problems arose during the year (some caused by the extremes of weather) which were resolved with the site operator, Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency. As far as the expected extension to the quarrying activities is concerned, the (until recently) slowdown in the economy, and particularly the building trade, meant that the demand for aggregate had diminished and therefore the public application process has yet to commence

Improve broadband service in the parish.

There has been no progress on the broadband speeds and as yet the British Telecom / Shropshire Council installation unit has still to announce when the three exchanges which affect the parish will be enhanced. However, we are still promised a download speed of at least 2 megabyte by 2016.

Manage planning applications in line with the community's expressed policy.

The situation in which Shropshire Council finds itself (of not having a 5 year housing land bank so that the Government's National Planning Policy Framework of "presume in favour of sustainable development" overrides all else, including all local plans particularly those which identify development boundaries and Parish development preferences) has hit Welshampton hard and the village is now subject to 4 speculative applications for 30 houses, outside the development boundary. This has obviously created considerable interest and many residents have attended both public meetings and Parish Council meetings to express their concerns and opinions.

Other projects which the Parish Council has instigated or been involved with are :-

In May 2013, at the time of the local elections, sufficient candidates came forward to form a Council but not so many as to initiate the requirement for an election.

The sports court was resurfaced to the appropriate Shropshire Council recommended standard and this was funded by the developer of the buildings behind the Sun as part of the negotiations.

The first "Welshampton Walks and

Rides" weekend event, co-hosted with Meres & Mosses Landscape Project, was held on a very hot weekend in July.

The Shropshire Council supported local community transport scheme (Shropshire Link) was finished due to the withdrawal of funds which left some of our older residents without transport into Ellesmere on market days. Fortunately North Salop Wheelers have been able to continue a service, but the quest for volunteers continues.

The government inspector at the inquiry held in the parish hall found in favour of the footpath from the canal to Spun Hill being nominated a public right of way.

A vehicle activated speed sign was installed outside the parish hall which flashes to advise speeding traffic on the A495.

The accounts for the year have been audited and simple financial statements are shown herewith. Suffice to say, the books balance, and the Council's prudent approach to expenditure ensures that there are no surprises. If any resident wants more detail, the full accounts are available on the website, or ask the parish clerk.

In addition to attending the twelve Parish Councils a year, and ad hoc meetings (usually to do with planning issues), Councillors also have other responsibilities as the Council is represented on other organising bodies, as follows –

-Local joint committee (3 Shropshire Councillors and 3 adjacent Parish Councils)

-Parish hall management committee

-SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils)

-Emergency planning committee (Shropshire Council and emergency services)

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representatives)

-Tudor Griffiths liaison group (Shropshire Councillor, company management, DEFRA, Cockshutt PC)

-Helicopter liaison group (RAF Shawbury, local PC's)

On personnel matters, the make-up of the Parish Council has changed considerably. The start saw Richard Hall (after many years of service) and Ian Yates (emigration to the USA) leave. During the year Peter Gee sadly passed away, and Ruth Evans resigned for family reasons. These four were replaced by Jennifer Wright, Bob Richards, Andy Haydon and Mark Standen being co-opted onto the Council.

Parish Councillors do not get paid, and the community is fortunate that there is a group of enthusiastic residents prepared to be Councillors, with the result that Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Council has a very good reputation for an open, fair and progressive approach. The Council and the community are greatly helped in this respect by the parish clerk, Carole Warner, and I thank her on your behalf.

The initial feedback from the Parish Plan refresh survey shows that the community is overwhelmingly in support of what the Council is doing, and it is most encouraging for Councillors to know that what the Council has done this year is appreciated.

Chris Symes
Chair of the Parish Council

The Parish Council is a non-political Council and is made up of none residents:

Welshampton Ward

Caroline Hamilton

Andrew Haydon

Sarah Jefferies

Bob Richards

Mark Standen

Jennifer Wright

Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton

Chris Symes (Chair)

Martin Withington

Payments	Budget 2013/14	Actual 2013/14	Budget 2014/15
General Administration			
Clerk Salary / Allowance	£5,125.00	£4,788.65	£5,125.00
Admin Expenses/Audit	£925.00	£767.99	£1,175.00
Newsletter/Notice Boards	£1,450.00	£1,390.20	£1,400.00
Training	£390.00	£30.00	£210.00
Establishment			
Insurance	£600.00	£591.32	£610.00
Meeting Room Hire	£360.00	£380.00	£200.00
Subscriptions	£372.16	£338.92	£370.00
Parish Maintenance			
Street Lighting	£1,250.00	£576.49	£1,970.00
Speed Visor	£1,300.00	£0.00	£1,300.00
Grounds Maintenance	£920.00	£1,032.00	£920.00
Elections			
Election Costs	£1,400.00	£0.00	£1,400.00
Other			
Parish Plan	£1,090.00	£515.00	£4,140.00
Churchyards	£350.00	£350.00	£350.00
P3 Expenditure	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
Contingency	£550.00	£0.00	£500.00
Total excl VAT	£16,282.16	£10,760.57	£19,870.00
VAT	£380.00	£261.37	£380.00
Total incl VAT	£16,662.16	£11,021.94	£20,250.00

Receipts	Budget 2013/14	Actual 2013/14	Budget 2014/15
Precept	£12,080.00	£12,080.00	£12,686.00
Interest	£3.50	£5.14	£3.50
VAT Refund	£361.61	£393.32	£218.37
Council Tax Support Grant	£695.00	£695.00	£777.00
Other	£192.50	£2,190.00	£192.50
Sub Total	£13,332.61	£15,363.46	£13,877.37
Transfer from/to Reserves	£3,329.55	£4,341.52	£6,372.63
Total	£16,662.16	£11,021.94	£20,250.00

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

Current Assets

2012/201

3	Bank Balances	2013/2014
1,221.96	Current Account	2,558.34
4,943.35	Deposit Account	7,948.49
6,165.31		10,506.83

Represented by Reserves

6066.81	Balance as at 1 April 2013	6,165.31
98.5	Plus excess Receipts over Payments	4,341.52
6,165.31	Balance as at 31 March 2014	10,506.83

Reserves Breakdown

Earmarked Reserves		
	Parish Plan	2,690.00
	Clerks Salary	325.00
	Elections	1,400.00
	Street Lights	670.00
	Speed Visor	1,300.00
	Contingency Reserves	4,121.83
		10,506.83