



Annual Report June 2015

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

For further information please contact the Clerk:
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The Parish Council has an up-to-date web site, and issues three newsletters each year to keep residents informed, but it is still recommended good practice for each household to receive a copy of the Chairman's annual report. This document is a summary of the verbal report given at the annual meeting on 6th May.

The main activities for the year being reported (1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015) were as follows -

Parish Plan – the refresh, consultation, adoption and publication of the new Parish Plan. The previous plan dated 2008 had served us well but needed refreshing as any plan older than five years may be considered out of date when being used for evidence if, for example, planning applications are being considered. This document now becomes the driving force of the Parish Council for the next few years, and every household received a copy at the beginning of 2015.

Quarry Extension – the application from Tudor Griffiths for the extension of quarrying activities nearer to Colemere (the mere) was finally received. This long-expected application has raised serious concerns in the community about heavy traffic crossing narrow lanes, noise from quarrying machinery, dust, and adequate screening, but most significantly, the effect on the Mere. The Council and the community is most fortunate in having one of the country's leading experts in this field as a

resident, and Dr Joan Daniels has raised some major issues on behalf of us all about the application's potential damage to the Mere and its surrounds.

Planning Applications – it was a most difficult year, reflected in the many meetings when concerned residents attended Parish Council meetings. This is due to Shropshire Council's failure to have a sound development policy in place so that the government's National Planning Policy Framework of "presume in favour of sustainable development" over-rides all else, including our local plans with development boundaries. This has led to an abundance of speculative property applications, some of which have been approved. Many residents will share the Council's frustration at the situation as, in the end, planning consent has been given for ten properties outside Welshampton's development boundary. It remains to be seen when and if these properties get built.

Emergency Planning – Shropshire Council's cutback of services caused the Parish Council to review the situation and decide that in the event of certain types of emergency, our community will need to help itself. Therefore the Parish Council commissioned an emergency plan which will come into effect at such times. Like most community projects, this does require volunteers.

In addition to the above, other actions during the year included the launch of the Welshampton walking leaflets; a review of the Stocks Lane car park lease; a review of the Parish Council/Parish Hall Committee responsibilities which had become confused over ground maintenance; and planning enforcements, as unfortunately there are still individuals who choose to try to disregard planning regulations.

Accounts – the accounts for the year are with the auditor and so a simple financial statement is shown herewith. Suffice to say, and as usual, the books balance, and the Council's prudent approach to expenditure control ensures that there are no surprises. If any resident wants more details about the finances, the full accounts are on the web site, or ask the parish clerk.

Councillors' roles – in addition to attending the twelve Council meetings during the year, and ad hoc meetings (this year to do with the Parish Plan or planning applications), 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; Shropshire Association of Local Councils; emergency planning committee (Shropshire Council and emergency services representatives); Tudor

Griffiths liaison group
(Shropshire Councillor,
company management,
Environment Agency,
Shropshire Wildlife, Cockshutt
PC).

Personnel matters – there has been stability during this year with no change in the make-up of the Council. However at the end of the year I decided it was time to stand down as chairman. After eight years in the role, I felt that it is appropriate for another Councillor to take over the Chair, to ensure that the challenges facing the Council are met with a renewed vigour which comes from change. I remain as Councillor for Lyneal but would like to thank other Councillors, and many members of the community, for their support during my time as Chair.

Perhaps more significant is the fact that Carole Warner, the parish clerk, has resigned from the position. When I thank Carole for her major contribution to the community through her parish clerk role, I know I can speak on behalf of all Councillors and the many in the parish who have had dealings with her. Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Council is known with high regard and Carole has been responsible for this. Carole has agreed to assist with clerk's duties until her replacement is appointed and in office. We wish Carole good luck in whatever new opportunities she takes.

Chris Symes
June 2015

The information in this Report can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.

Financial Report 2014 / 2015

Payments	Budget 2014/15	Actual 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
General Administration			
Clerk Salary / Allowance	£5,125.00	£5,626.95	£5,100.00
Admin Expenses/Audit	£1,375.00	£766.20	£1,375.00
Newsletter/Notice Boards	£1,400.00	£1,324.75	£1,500.00
Training	£210.00	£60.00	£310.00
Insurance	£610.00	£609.05	£625.00
Subscriptions	£370.00	£356.46	£385.00
Election Costs	£1,400.00	£200.00	
Parish Maintenance			
Street Lighting	£1,970.00	£1,289.49	£1,800.00
Grounds Maintenance	£920.00	£867.50	£1,650.00
Speed Visor	£1,300.00		
Sports Court	£300.00	£1,127.09	£250.00
Stocks Lane Car Park			£500.00
Balmer Phone Box			£250.00
Other			
Walking Leaflets	£1,590.00	£1,590.00	
Churchyards	£350.00		£350.00
Parish Plan	£1,450.00	£1,526.96	£2,000.00
S137	£1,000.00	£45.00	
Contingency	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
Total excl VAT	£19,870.00	£15,389.45	£16,595.00
VAT	£380.00	£614.41	£560.00
Total incl VAT	£20,250.00	£16,003.86	£17,155.00

Receipts	Budget 2014/15	Actual 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
Precept	£12,686.00	£12,686.00	£16,000.00
Interest	£3.50	£6.31	£5.00
VAT Refund	£218.37	£261.37	£600.00
Council Tax Support Grant	£777.00	£777.00	
Other	£192.50	£1,200.00	
Sub Total	£13,877.37	£14,930.68	£16,605.00
Transfer from/to Reserves	£6,372.63	£1,073.18	£550.00
Total	£20,250.00	£16,003.86	£17,155.00

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

Current Assets

2013/2014 Bank Balances	2014/2015
2,558.34 Current Account	1,478.85
7,948.49 Deposit Account	7,954.80
10,506.83	9,433.65

Represented by Reserves

6165.31 Balance as at 1 April 2014	10,506.83
4341.52 Plus excess Payments over Receipts	1,073.18
10,506.83 Balance as at 31 March 2015	9,433.65

Reserves Breakdown

Earmarked Reserves	
P3, Churchyards & Grounds Maintenance	542.50
Elections	1,200.00
Parish Plan Refresh	900.00
Street Lights	680.00
Hall Hire	240.00
Contingency Reserves	5,871.15
	9,433.65