

Hello and welcome.... from a newly appointed chairperson.

First may I say a huge personal thank you to Cllr Andy Haydon for his time and dedication chairing the Parish Council for the last 6 years. Also to ex Cllr Sarah Jeffries who did not stand for re-election in May. Thank you is not enough to express the Parish Council's gratitude for her contribution to our work. Congratulations also to all councillors returned unopposed at the local elections in May, and also to Cllr Lawrence Houghton MBE on his appointment as Vice Chair. And thank you to the council for their confidence by electing me to chair. I must also mention we have one vacancy on our council and would encourage anyone interested in joining us to contact our Clerk.

Recent months have been a challenge. Since lockdown began, the council have responded to the restrictions as directed by Government. Initially we could not meet in person but managed through a system of delegated responsibility. Our gratitude must be expressed to our Clerk who kept things working and on track during the most difficult times. Then Zoom became the new normal and we met virtually for several meetings, which worked but, at last. In May we met in person for the first time in over a year. The standout moment was we were able to welcome face to face, Cllr Karen Bland who was newly co-opted the first month of lockdown and with whom we had previously only been able to meet virtually.

In April, the Parish Council met to review the nominations for the Community Service Award 2021. The nominations were all of a high standard and it was a difficult decision to make. The Council contacted the recipient who stated they were very honoured to be recognised. Sadly, for personal reasons, the recipient has since declined to accept the Award. Therefore, no Award will be made this year.

I am looking forward serving the Parish as chair of the Council. We have many ambitions and projects current and new under way. Some of which will be explained in this newsletter and include, focus on road safety, we are very aware speeding on our local roadways and traffic noise are causing serious concern to residents of the parish. Rural broadband is also an ongoing project we are putting much time and effort into. As is local infrastructure improvements such as the local bus shelter, now complete, while the school carpark and improvements to the parish hall are being developed.

I share the desire with all residents for life to return to as near normal as is practical under the current difficult circumstances. And while some early progress has been made, like the most welcome re-opening of the Sun Inn, and the announcement that the Parish Hall will re-open as soon as the lifting of restrictions allow. I sincerely hope the time when we can meet freely will not be too long away.

Michael Dinsdale

Chairperson of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)



You will have noticed the VAS at either end of Welshampton along the A495. The Council has received a few envious comments from local councils wishing to have their own!

The Council can download data from the VAS so will be able to report any improvement in speed in future newsletters

Welshampton C of E Primary School Update

New Headteacher Appointed for Newhampton Federation

As you may be aware Mr Andrew Hodson is retiring from his role as Executive Headteacher for Newhampton Federation (the governing body for Welshampton and Newtown Primary schools) at the end of this summer term.

Following a thorough recruitment process, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that, the Governing Body has appointed Mr Ben Crompton as the new Executive Headteacher for the Newhampton Federation. Mr Crompton will join us with a wealth of experience but also a passion and desire to deliver and support the holistic development of the children, broaden horizons and bring learning to life.

"I am thrilled to have been appointed as the new Executive Headteacher at Newhampton Federation. The opportunity to lead and develop both Newtown and Welshampton Church of England Primary Schools excites me greatly and I am really looking forward to it."

"I must thank Mr Hodson and the staff, the governing body and all of the children for welcoming me so warmly during the recruitment process. It was a real privilege to spend time talking to everyone and I saw the wonderful sense of community and pride there is in each school."

"I can't wait to continue developing two forward-thinking and outward-looking church schools and work with staff, parents and the wider community to ensure that both schools are truly special places for children to be educated. I look forward to meeting you all in September!"

Mr Crompton will take up his role full time from 1st September 2021.

As we approach the end of the summer term we will be holding in school celebrations for Mr Hodson as we say a very well earned thank you and goodbye. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we are unable to invite the wider community into school for these celebrations. However, I am sure you will join in thanking Mr Hodson for his dedication and support to our fantastic village schools and wish him a very happy retirement.

Thank you: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils, parents, staff team and governing body for their dedication, hard work and support throughout this academic year. It has been a very challenging time but everyone has pulled together to achieve the very best we can for our pupils. I hope everyone has a safe and restful summer break and look forward to everyone meeting Mr Crompton in September.

Clare Mainwaring
Chair of Governors

Governor Vacancy

Newhampton Federation is looking to recruit a governor to the governing body. The role of a governor is challenging but hugely rewarding. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment. You will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country: there are over a quarter of a million volunteers governing state funded schools in England.

Schools need governing bodies that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective. Anyone aged 18 or over can be a governor (but there are some exceptions) and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help you learn about education. Schools needs and benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing board including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change.

As a governor you will be able to:

- use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- develop and utilise your skills in a board-level environment
- make a valuable contribution to education and your community
- support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff
- bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision-making in the interests of the school community

If you would like to find out more about the role, in the first instance, please contact the school.

Broadband

Last December, the Council sought residents interest in the national Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and Shropshire Council Top-Up Scheme. Nearly 150 residents came forward and the Council placed expressions of interest with Openreach and Airband.

The Council has been very disappointed in the slow response from these organisations, mainly due to the popularity of the scheme. The Council is also reviewing the 'small print' which is now available. The Council is still progressing the project albeit elements are outside its control.

Who are your current Councillors?

Eight members of the parish put themselves forward to serve the community for the next 4 years. Some have been on the Parish Council for many years, some not so. Below, they explain why they became Councillors and their ambitions.

Karen Bland I became a parish councillor because I felt I wanted to participate in the community that I moved into. During last year's lockdowns, parish councils were pivotal in bringing communities together, and making sure everyone was supported. I saw first-hand now how important an organisation this is and want to be part of it.

Mike Dinsdale I find being a councillor can be challenging. There is much to learn and it demands effort and time. Yet it is a reward in its self, knowing one is working always for the good of the community. It is an opportunity to meet many likeminded people and to represent them and work on their behalf.

Andrew Haydon Soon after settling here I appreciated the strong sense of community and wanted to be a part of preserving the character and amenities of our villages, especially since becoming a parent myself. I have always lived in a rural environment and have an understanding of the needs of parishioners and local businesses.

Lawrence Houghton MBE During my time on the Parish Council it has had to deal with some really important issues. Housing development, speeding traffic and significant environmental issues to name but a few. We strive always to achieve the best outcomes for our Parish - hopefully we have.

Sheila Stringer I joined wanting to be able to put something back into my community. It is a strong and vibrant community and I believe it is vital that we work to ensure what happens in the Parish continues to support this and is in the best interest of the residents and local businesses.

Chris Symes My ambitions for the future for W&LPC are very straightforward - to ensure that the community continues to happily prosper through sensible, locally controlled development (not County or Government dictates) which provides homes and employment, and facilities such as school, church and pub, without disrupting the rural, agricultural nature of the parish.

Guy Wellsbury Having had the privilege of living on the western boundary of our parish for the last 25+ years, I was delighted to respond to a request for new members to join the Parish Council. I have always believed that to get the most out of living in a rural area it is essential to put something back into our community.

Martin Withington I feel fortunate to be part of a lively, committed and knowledgeable Parish Council. We are aware that we live in a beautiful and special part of the country and we are determined to try to ensure that the necessary balance is maintained between the need for progress and development on the one hand and the protection of the local environment on the other.

Welshampton Community Speed Watch

What is Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch (CSW) schemes are coordinated by the police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. The scheme enables local people to take an active role in road safety and make their community safer.

How does it work?

At specified safe locations, volunteers monitor the speed of passing vehicles with a hand-held speed detection device. Offending vehicles' details are recorded on a log sheet, including the names and signatures of the volunteers witnessing the offence and other key information. The aim is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible. It aims to encourage motorists to drive at a safe and appropriate speed, reduce speed in areas of concern, re-educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and address concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their communities.

How are we doing?

We are a newly formed group of small numbers but are very active! On one occasion we recorded 12 vehicles over the speed limit entering the village, one doing 47mph. If you could spare 1 to 2 hours at the most, maybe once or twice a month, you could help keep our section of the A495 safe. Why not come along and see what happens?

If you are interested please contact Ian Fletcher (aluco50@hotmail.com) or the Parish Council Clerk (clerk@welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk)

Make a change, become a councillor!

The Parish Council has a vacancy in Welshampton Ward. As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change.

I'm interested, what do I do?

Contact the Parish Clerk or you are welcome to contact any Parish Councillor to understand the role more.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in Welshampton Parish Hall and start at 7pm, unless otherwise stated.
Wednesday 14 July
Wednesday 11 August
Wednesday 8 September

Updates

Rural Crime

If you have been unfortunate to have been a victim of rural crime, you will know full well of the damage it causes not just to properties but to individuals too. However, we live in an areas of low crime. You can monitor local crime through the Police website. The parish is covered by the Ellesmere Town and Rural Police Team. The link to the website is:

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-mercias-police/ellesmere-town-and-rural/>

You can see the crime levels as a chart and a list over the year. If you click on 'Crime Map' you can drill down to specific areas.

FixMyStreet

Wanting a new, easy way to report highways problems? There is a new way called 'FixMyStreet'. FixMyStreet is an independent website, built by the charity mySociety. They wanted to make it easier to report problems in the community, even if you don't know who those reports should go to.

Like other authorities, Shropshire Council is looking to formally integrate this reporting system as part of their process.

Take a look:
<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>
and if you see something not right, report it!

Public Rights of Way

The interest in walking and exploring the countryside, has continued from last year but following the very wet May some rights of way are becoming overgrown and/or blocked.

Who is responsible for keeping the rights of way open and accessible? The landowner, or occupier is responsible for controlling side and overhead vegetation from inhibiting the use of rights of way. Shropshire Council, as the Highway Authority, has a duty to control surface vegetation, although this is distinct from cultivated crops which are covered by specific legislation.

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Andrew Haydon (Chair)
Mike Dinsdale (Vice Chair)
Karen Bland
Sheila Stringer
Guy Wellsbury
Vacancy

Lyneal Ward

Chris Symes
Lawrence Houghton MBE
Martin Withington

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

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams 01939 234198

Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month and start at 7pm. The public may attend and speak in the public session.

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

Useful Contact Details

Shropshire Council 0345 678 9000
customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk

Emergency Contacts

In most emergencies you should dial 999 or 112

For non - emergencies

West Mercia Police	101
Shropshire Fire & Rescue	01743 260200
West Mids Ambulance Service	01743 273649

Community Contacts

Welshampton Parish Hall
welshamptonphcontact@gmail.com 01948 710964

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:

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