



Chairman's Annual Report 2015 -16

Welcome to the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting.

Bayston Hill is a thriving community of different groups from various backgrounds. This is just one of the reasons that makes our village special.

The staff members and my fellow Councillors have always sought to do their best for our community and continue to do so. However we need your good selves to come forward and join our Parish Council as a member. Please visit our Parish Office for an information pack. We would value input from young people and indeed, have a vacancy for a Young Councillor, (this would look very good on any CV)!

Our village is constantly changing; for example

- A pedestrian crossing over the A49
- The excellent flowers on the Parish Shopping Area
- The refurbished play area at Long Meadow
- The Common – an open area
- The Burls – general walking
- The Lyth Hill – good for recreation
- The Stanley Parker Playing Field; football pitches; crown green bowling; bmx & skate park
- Sensory Garden

These are just a few of the areas of interest in our village.

The Oakland School site continues to go on at a slow pace with all of the stakeholders needing to be involved in the final outcome. Please visit our noticeboards spread throughout the village for more information.

To conclude, I would like to thank each and every person in our community for their contribution to help make Bayston Hill what it is, a special village. The recent success of the Community Awards Scheme demonstrates that those contributions can be made in a variety of different ways but that everybody's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Fred Jones, Chairman to Bayston Hill Parish Council



Planning Committee Annual Report 2016

May I congratulate the residents of Gorse Lane and join with them in the celebration of the Planning Inspectors findings and his decision not to allow the building of thirty five houses on land behind the lane. It was an important result which we hope gives us material to continue the fight to protect our Village to not become part of the Shrewsbury conurbation. "The gap" is important for us to retain our identity as a Village and as a Parish Council we will continue to be pro-active in this! If you see May's Villager you will see for yourselves the delight on faces as they gathered to celebrate.

Currently we continue to keep developers at bay as they challenge earlier refusal to build houses outside our Village boundary. Once again it is Gorse Lane, the five houses at the end which has a hearing date set to challenge that decision. Also the earlier refusal of thirty five houses alongside the now completed Pulley Lane development.

Other planning applications for extensions and property changes arrive weekly so as a small committee we are kept quite busy at the moment. Some of these smaller applications in themselves prove a challenge too. As a committee we would hope all needed permission is requested in advance of any building or changes as a matter of courtesy to your neighbours, not to mention legal requirement. Your neighbours do have a right to know what is happening; this is usually through a planning notice, again it is just good manners to display.

I look forward to more interesting challenges in the future but I do this without two very passionate and active former members of this committee who have now stepped down from the Council. You are missed and we wish to thank you both, Max Ball and Terry Trickett for the work you so steadfastly did especially in Planning, in the time you were Councillors.

Teresa Lewis



Amenities Committee Report 2015 – 16

2015/16 has been another year of steady progress across the diverse and widespread Parish estate. Our responsibilities for maintenance of community facilities extends right around the village; from the Common in the east, to the Lythwood sports fields and Parrs wood and pool in the west.

The Lythwood Pavilion roof has been successfully dismantled, re-felted and then re-tiled, with minimal inconvenience to our regular users. The well-used changing rooms have also been given a thorough redecoration and a general refresh.

We have invested in a tractor and implements which we hope will make the regular mowing of our sports fields a less onerous and time consuming task for our two always busy part-time handymen.

The ongoing flooding of the path through Parrs wood has now been successfully addressed, after the unexpected discovery and capping-off of a disintegrated long abandoned water trough supply pipe.

Various suggested schemes to address the serious duck weed infestation of Parrs pool are being carefully explored and costed. We remain committed to resolving this vexing and challenging issue.

The major redesign of Long Meadow play-area and addition of new equipment is nearly complete. The awaited installation of steps to more easily access the bank slide and the purchase of two picnic benches will we hope add to family enjoyment of this popular facility.

The provision of 17 flower planters along the Parade (funded by LJC and supplied by STC) was so well received, and well treated, that we will be repeating the attractive summer display again this year.

Finally, thank you to our Parish Clerks, past and present, for their dedicated management of our property and facilities. And thank you also to our handymen for all their undertakings, not least their uncomplaining attention to the emptying of the dog bins around the Glebe and Lythwood areas . . .

Ted Clarke - Chair of Amenities Committee



Finance Committee Report 2015 – 16

The draft Income and Expenditure Account for Financial Year 2015-2016 with accompanying explanatory notes is attached to this report. Due to the increased pension obligations of employers; alongside the non-payment again of Council Tax Support Grant and the intention to ask Parish Councils to take on the running of service provision from the County Council, the Parish Council reluctantly increased the Precept for 2016-2017. This sees the annual Band D Council Tax Precept rise from £68.50 to £71.94 per household, (£1.38 per week). The Precept allocations were discussed, set and agreed at a meeting held by the Council on 18 January 2016.

In order to ensure proper and effective use of your money, the Parish Council has fully complied with Financial Governance regulations by organising internal and external audits within the financial year. The latest internal financial audit having been conducted in April, as usual the External Audit will be carried out once the Annual Financial Return has been submitted at the end of June. All Finance Committee Reports and those of Full Council Meetings, along with Audit reports are available for inspection in the Parish Office; on-line and in the Library.

The Finance Committee Meetings are held quarterly and we monitor the finances of the Council. The Parish Council welcomes resident involvement in meetings and members of the public are able to put financial questions to the Council at sub-committee meetings and Full Council meetings in writing or in person throughout the year. Meeting dates are available on the website.

We hope that the residents value the services we provide on their behalf. This year saw major expenditure on the Longmeadow Play Park, in response to residents' comments at Local Joint Committee Meetings and to Parish Plan questionnaires. We try to listen to villagers' requests and urge residents to contribute to the current Community Led Plan process, which will provide the Council with priorities to consider for the future.

Knowing what services residents value is more vital than ever before, with the threat of wholesale closure of long-provided County services. Parish Councils are being asked to pick up the bill or lose these services. Far reaching decisions which need your input to help us decide what to do; we need to know which, if any services you want to keep!

Alan Parkhurst – Chair of Finance Committee

Bayston Hill Parish Council

Draft Income & Expenditure Account 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

Previous Year
End 31 March 2015

Current Year
End 31 March 2016

(£)	<u>Income</u>	(£)
110,601.00	Precept ¹	117,000.00
10,645.74	Lythwood Sports Complex ²	12,561.84
444.76	Recreation Area	966.57
0.00	Village General Maintenance	0.00
0.00	Street Lighting	0.00
0.00	Grants ⁴	587.50
6,971.86	General Office Expenditure ³	38.51
5,800.31	General Parish Expenditure	5,274.95
431.16	Earmarked Account (Asset Renewals)	267.91
161.07	Earmarked Account (Reserve Funds) ⁵	3,840.09
2,000.00	Earmarked Account (LJC specific funding)	0.00
0.00	Common Account	0.09
97.14	Precept Reserve Account	51.62
	Staff Mileage/PPE	80.35
137,153.04		140,669.43

	<u>Expenditure</u>	
0.00	Grants	687.50
15,463.04	Lythwood Sports Complex ⁶	11,541.12
6,989.10	Recreation Area	7,788.67
4,564.63	Village General Maintenance ⁷	2,505.28
17,908.71	Street Lighting ⁸	17,208.23
444.83	The Village Common	419.00
40,063.20	Staff Salaries ⁹	40,229.96
448.69	Staff Mileage/PPE	674.36
3,463.82	Employers Staff Pension/NI ¹⁰	5,502.32
3,830.81	General Office Expenditure	6,033.86
4,788.01	General Parish Expenditure	6,428.92
38,222.75	Earmarked Account (Asset Renewals) ¹¹	51,208.87
21,329.43	Earmarked Account (Reserve Funds) ¹²	13,527.00
4,238.00	Earmarked Account (LJC Specific Funding) ¹³	0.00
704.53	Precept Reserve Account	656.41
162,459.55		164,411.50

	<u>General Fund</u>	
312,192.43	Balance at 1 April 2015	286,885.92
<u>137,153.04</u>	ADD Total Income	<u>140,669.43</u>
449,345.47		427,555.35
 <u>162,459.55</u>	 DEDUCT Total Expenditure	 <u>164,411.50</u>
286,885.92		263,143.85
0.00	Transfer to/from Reserves	0.00
<u>286,885.92</u>	Balance at 31 March 2016 ¹⁰	<u>263,143.85</u>

NOTES:

1. The Precept was increased due to the decision by Shropshire Council to withhold the Council Tax Support Grant (previously £6,537); the loss of income from Shrewsbury School (£8,000) and the pending pay award for all staff, together with the increased pension costs to the Parish Council.
2. Income from Lythwood Sports Complex has recovered slightly from the loss of an important contract with Shrewsbury School, but has not yet reached the levels of 2013/14. Income
3. General Office Expenditure is reduced due to the decision by Shropshire Council to withhold the Council Tax Support Grant. Income limited to receipt of a Wayleave payment.
4. This cost centre was provisionally designated as Grants until the Parish Council conforms to all the criteria giving eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence.
5. Income under Earmarked Account (Reserve Fund) is made up from two ring-fenced receipts; £1,500 for the refresh of the Community Led Plan and £2,324.88 Neighbourhood Fund (for expenditure related to development in the Parish), plus interest of £15.21.
6. Expenditure on the Lythwood Pavilion has reduced, following refurbishment of the pavilion in 2014/15.
7. Expenditure on Village General Maintenance is reduced as Shropshire Council has not charged for the rotation of the Vehicle Activated Sign. This project is being discontinued in favour of fixed position signs but the existing sign will remain in its present position until it is no longer operationally viable.
8. Street lighting costs have reduced slightly, reflecting the benefits of investment in energy efficient LED lanterns.
9. Staff salaries increased slightly in the year, due to additional costs associated with maintaining the planters on the Parade. There was also a salary adjustment made in February to bring salary payments into the month worked instead of being paid in arrears.
10. Pension costs increased in the year as an additional member of staff joined the pension scheme, resulting in increased employer contributions from the Council.
11. Expenditure from the Earmarked Account (Asset Renewals) was largely accounted for by £17,511.71 spent on upgrading street lights to LEDs; £32,723.00 spent on upgrading the play equipment at Long Meadow; remaining expenditure covered the replacement of hedge cutters and repairs to the BMX track.
12. The majority of expenditure from the Earmarked Account (Reserve Fund) was for repairs to the Pavilion roof.
13. Expenditure from the Earmarked Account (LJC Specific Funding) has yet to be allocated.

Bayston Hill Parish Councillors

In addition to the Chairs of each Committee, the following are members of the Parish Council:

	Ian Gordon – Vice Chairman Committees: Finance, Amenities & Personnel		Janet Whittall Committees: Amenities
	Keith Keel Committees: Amenities & Finance		Linda Candy Committees: Finance and Planning
	Paul Breeze Committees: Planning		Arthur Gouge Committees: Planning & Finance

Parish Council Vacancies

The Parish Council has a total of 15 seats, 5 of which are presently vacant. The Council would warmly welcome enquiries from residents about co-option onto the Council, to serve until the next elections in May 2017. Members should usually be over 18 but there are also two vacancies for Young Councillors. Anybody interested in applying should contact the Clerk for information and an application pack.

Bayston Hill Parish Council Employees

The Council recently said goodbye to Emma Kay, who has moved on to pastures new. The new Clerk is Caroline Higgins, who is ably assisted by our two Handymen, Roger Pugh and Brian Evans and by Julie Clarke, who holds the keys to the Longmeadow Play Area. We are also being assisted in the office temporarily by Anne Cousins, who covered as Locum Clerk so admirably following Emma's resignation and who will be available to cover holiday and other absences as needed in the year.

Please feel free to visit us in the Parish Office if you would like information about anything the Council is doing, (or you think they should be doing). The office is open most mornings between 9am -1pm, except on Tuesdays, when we open between 1 – 4pm. The telephone number is 01743 874651 and our email address is baystonhilpc@hotmail.com.

	<p>Caroline Higgins Parish Clerk</p>		<p>Anne Cousins Locum Clerk and Admin Assistant</p>
	<p>Roger Pugh Handyman</p>		<p>Brian Evans Handyman</p>

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council is looking at alternative providers for our website, which will unfortunately be switched off by Shropshire Council at the end of June. Details of the new website will be published through the Villager magazine and on Parish Council noticeboards.

Bayston Hill Annual Parish Meeting – 23 May 2016

The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting is attached to this report.

This year the Parish Meeting will focus on the **future of services** in the Parish, presently provided by Shropshire Council. As has been widely reported in the press, Shropshire Council is facing a substantial financial shortfall, which is threatening all but essential services from April 2016.

One of the services threatened is the library service, particularly the smaller libraries outside Shrewsbury, including **Bayston Hill Library**. Discussions have been ongoing for some time to relocate the library into the proposed Community Hub, but this has been dependent on the long awaited development of the Oaklands / Glebelands site for housing. It has now become apparent that an interim solution will be needed if Bayston Hill Library is to stay open after April 2017.

Shropshire Council Officers will attend the Annual Parish Meeting and speak about the different options for the future of the library. The Council is very interested to hear your views and identify any community groups interested in supporting Bayston Hill Library. No decisions have yet been taken, but it is important for the community to demonstrate that it values the service if it wishes to protect it from closure. A formal consultation will take place over the next few months and the Parish Council urges all residents to put their views forward.

Other services dealing with cutbacks include museums; leisure centres; rural transport; youth services; environmental maintenance; rights of way; open spaces and country parks. Shropshire Council is exploring a variety of ways to devolve some of these services to Town and Parish Councils, either individually or as groups. It may be necessary to work collaboratively to identify the most cost effective ways of providing the services. It is inevitable that some additional costs will transfer to Parish Councils and where Councils are willing to work together, a conversation will be needed about how those additional costs are shared between Councils.

The Parish Meeting is not a formal meeting of the Parish Council. It is your opportunity to speak about the issues that matter to you and your community. Providing you are an elector of the Parish, you are entitled to speak on any matter of local interest, whether or not it is on the agenda. Members of the Council will be attending and listening to your views and the Council Chairman will chair the meeting to ensure everybody who wishes to speak has an opportunity to do so.

We very much hope you will be able to attend. Refreshments will be provided and there will be time to chat with neighbours and find out more about the review of the Parish Plan, (now called the Community Led Plan), at the end of the meeting.

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
MONDAY**

23 May 2016 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

AGENDA

- APM01.16 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**
- APM02.16 **MINUTES** – *To agree the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 1 June 2015.*
- APM03.16 **MATTERS ARISING** – *To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 1 June 2015.*
- APM04.16 **PARISH REPORT** – *Any questions on the Annual Parish Report*
- APM05.16 **POLICE REPORT** – *The April 2016 Police Report for Bayston Hill will be available at the meeting. A representative of the Safer Neighbourhood Team will hopefully attend the meeting and be available to chat to residents after the meeting.*
- APM06.16 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT** – *To receive a report from Cllr Clarke.*
- APM07.16 **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS**
- APM08.16 **GUEST SPEAKERS – Shropshire Council officers**
The future of Bayston Hill Library
- APM09.16 **OPEN FORUM** – *For residents to raise matters of general interest with the Parish Council.*

Please stay for tea and coffee at the end of the meeting and enjoy meeting your neighbours. A display on the Community Led Plan will be hosted by David Preston, Chairman of the Steering Group.

Fred Jones

Cllr Fred Jones

Parish Council Chairman

Bayston Hill Community Award Scheme

The Parish Council was delighted with the response to the recent Community Award Scheme, which attracted a variety of nominations and resulted in the following awards: Certificates will be presented by the Chairman of the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting and you are warmly invited to attend and show your appreciation.

Award Category:

Exemplary Achievement:

Mrs Jane Memory , (Lyth Hill Stores)	Nominated for: Maintenance of local produce & fair trade ethos; high standard of customer service; provision of community coffee shop and support for vulnerable customers; 'The shop is a lifeline for residents in the west of the village'.
Jeanette Griffiths	Nominated for: Provision of support group for parents of children with special needs; the group arranges social meetings; meals; walks and opportunities to talk.
Mrs Judy Shone	Nominated for: Arrangement of numerous community fundraising activities; Secretary of the Memorial Hall Committee and writer of the village pantomime for 20 years, raising thousands of pounds to support the upkeep of the building and giving great pleasure to those who watch and take part.

Good Neighbour Award:

Mr Derek Childs	Supports his neighbours by receiving parcels; helping with bins; sharing garden produce and visiting neighbours, despite being of mature years and having health issues of his own
Susan & John Parry and their family	Support for their neighbour during a period of great sadness, whilst he recovered from the loss of his wife and serious injuries. Support included practical help with the house and garden; daily visits; lifts to doctors' appointments; emotional support and great kindness.

Young Person of the Year Award:

Gareth Parry	Gardening for his neighbour during a lengthy period of ill health.
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