BAYSTON HILL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

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Bayston Hill Parish Council

Mission Statement

The Council's aim is to protect and improve the quality of life of all of village's residents.

It does so by:

- Making representations to other local authorities
- Making representations to other service providers
- Being represented on village bodies
- Working in partnership with other local authorities
- Working in partnership with local voluntary bodies
- Directly providing local facilities
- Working together with the young people of Bayston Hill. Valuing their views, helping them to make their ideas happen and striving to keep them safe.

Chairman's Foreword

I am very proud to have been elected as Chairman as Bayston Hill Parish Council at our Annual Council Meeting in May of last year.

I am very grateful to my fellow councillors for their commitment to the needs of the village and for their continued support. The role of being a councillor for one of the County's biggest parishes no longer consists of attending a few meetings, but is now an expectation to attend regular training, abide by new legislation on many issues and to read large amounts of information. The work the councillors do usually go unreported and unwitnessed, but without it the village would be a much less pleasant place to live.

At the Council elections last May, 13 members were elected parish councillors and we had two vacancies. Since then we have lost a hard working member of the council, Helen Hall, due to family and work commitments, but we have gained a new co-opted member, Dave Engler. We still have two vacancies and if any resident is interested in becoming more involved in what is going on in the village, then why not become a Parish Councillor. Please visit the Parish Office and pick up a Councillor pack from the Clerk in Lyth Hill Road

We are also delighted that in June last year, Richard James came to join us as our very first Young Councillor and then in January this year, Rose Moore joined us as our second Young Councillor. We very much value their input into our meetings with the views from our young people in the village.

At the Shropshire Association of Local Council Annual General Meeting in November, Bayston Hill Parish Council was presented with the Jan Snell Award for parish achievements and this award is on display in the Parish Office. The achievement for this award was for our work on the Community Woodland project.

Our Community Woodland is starting to take shape now and we have planted over 1025 trees last year with the aid of both the schools in the village as well as residents, Stoke Heath Settlement Team and some of our Councillors. Over 300 shrubs have been planted this April and the pond will be dug out shortly. We are very pleased also to announce that we have secured funding from the Shropshire Horticultural Society for a Sensory Garden and a

Community Orchard and this hopefully will be planted out sometime this year.

In February this year our Parish Clerk, Anne Chalkley, after a lot of very hard work gained her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) from the University of Gloucestershire and is now classed as a qualified Parish Clerk.

We are delighted that we have been successful in an 'Awards for All' Lottery Grant of £10,000 to replace the very old wooden adventure structure in Ivor Wright Play Area. The new play equipment is scheduled to be erected during May and we apologise now for any inconvenience this may cause any residents and their children whilst the old equipment is being dismantled and the new erected.

Our website has been up and running for a while now, although we have experienced some problems that are being ironed out at the moment. This gives residents that have access to a computer and internet to see the dates of meetings and also print off the agendas and minutes once they are approved.

We now have a Parish Newsletter that goes out once a quarter and our first one was in February and the second should be out now in May. The Villager Association kindly gave permission for the Parish Council to send out their Newsletter within the monthly 'Villager' magazine and we are very grateful for this.

We want to ensure all residents of the Village, young and old that the Parish Council's role is to provide the best facilities we can offer. We look forward to the opportunities that will be provided under the new Unitary Council in 2009.

The Clerk's report gives a flavour of some of the work the Council has undertaken on behalf of the Village over the last twelve months.

Clir Janet Whittall Chairman to Bayston Hill Parish Council

Parish Achievements for 2007-2008

Jan Snell Award – Jan Snell was a member of staff who worked for 23 years for Shropshire Association of Local Councils who support Parish Councils and when she suddenly died on 28 May 2005 the associated decided to have an award in her memory and from 2006 the Parish Council were asked to submit their parish achievements for that year.

When Shropshire Association of Local Councils once again sent out for parish achievements, we submitted a report on our Community Woodland. At the Annual General Meeting held in Telford on the 17 November 2007, Bayston Hill Parish Council won the Jan Snell award. This consisted of an engraved shield and plate and a certificate. This award is on show in the Parish Office window.

'Awards for All' Lottery Grant

The wooden adventure play equipment in Ivor Wright Play Area needed replacing and the Parish Council submitted a grant application to the 'Awards for All' lottery. We were delighted to have been successful in our grant application and awarded £10,000 to purchase new adventure play equipment to replace the old in the park.

After quotations had been submitted, the Clerk visited Longmeadow School to show the children several designs for the new park equipment. After consultation they choose the one they thought would suit their play needs and at the council meeting held in February it was agreed to go with their chose.

It is anticipated that this new play equipment will be ready for the children in May.

Multi-Use Games Area

We have been successful in obtaining a grant for £40,000 from Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council to replace two out of our three tennis courts with all weather astra turf for an all year round five-a-side football area. This work will be undertaken during June and we believe that this will make very good use of this facility.

Electoral Boundary Review

We are very pleased that Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council share our view that Bayston Hill ward should be retained as it is and we await the proposals from the Boundary Committee in July.

Full Council Chair – Janet Whittall Vice Chair – Hazel Jones

The Full Council met 6 times throughout the year to approve and direct the actions of the Clerk in providing Parish facilities and services. Sometimes Special meetings are held to discuss issues in more detail, for example, the Council met in February to agree the design for the new adventure play equipment for Ivor Wright Play Area as the Parish had been successful with their application and awarded £10,000 towards this new structure from the 'Awards for All' Lottery grant.

Last year we informed you that we were liaising with Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council with regard to a Dog Pooh Bin scheme and council have bought five dog bins that are located as follows: By the notice board on the Common, by the Library, at the entrance to the Glebelands in Eric Lock Road West, in the car park opposite the Pavilion in Lythwood Road and opposite the bus stop in Pulley Lane. The contents of these bins are empted by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council each week. We hope that if this pilot scheme is successful then we may be allowed to purchase more dog bins for the village.

The partnership between the Parish Council and Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council regarding Litter Picking is working very well and we have a small number of residents who have during this year been picking up litter on a regular basis to try and keep our village tidy. There are still room for more volunteers if you would like to help.

Volunteers came forward to help with the Speed Watch programme, by we received information from the police to say that this scheme has been put on hold nationally pending guidance from the Association of Chief Police Officers. There is a meeting schedule for April and as soon as the police have any information, this will be passed on to the Parish. We understand

that West Mercia is keen for this scheme to continue in Shropshire should the guidance prove to be favourable

The Parish Website, <u>www.shrop.net/baysthill</u>, is now up and running and all agendas and approved minutes are published on this website.

The council support local organisations through its annual award of grants. Organisations wishing to apply for a grant should contact the Clerk for an application form. All grant applications are considered once a year at the first Full Council meeting held after the Annual Council Meeting.

We now produce a quarter Newsletter and this went out for the first time in February inserted in The Villager Magazine with the co-operation of The Villager Association. This newsletter gives information for residents and contact details of councillors.

As you can see our Parish Plan is progressing as we have purchased the dog bins and they are being collected by the Borough. The website is now up and running and we have a Parish Page each month in The Village magazine. We continue to support the refurbishments of the Memorial Hall and we are constantly in consultation with outside agencies for a heritage walk around the Burgs. The Community Woodland is slowly developing and we are looking at ways of putting a pathway around Parrs Pool. The Play Area at Longmeadow will be receiving new play equipment to replace the old wooden structure in May and the all weather astra turf surface on the multi-use games area at Lythwood will be playable during this year.

Amenities Committee Chair – Clir Ted Clarke Vice Chair – Clir Alan Reynolds

The Amenities Committee met nine times throughout the year to discuss various aspects of the village.

The Community Woodland is a very large project and is in three phases. The first phase that covers 0.96 hectares was planted out with 1025 trees in March of 2007. The second phase is 1.60 hectare and we anticipated planting the shrubs in the autumn, but due to weather conditions we did not take delivery of the shrubs until March 2008. Over 300 shrubs have now been planted by a small group of volunteers

The last phase 1.11 hectares is awaiting a pond to be dug out once the ground is dryer and if we are successful in acquiring funding from the Shropshire Horticultural Society to build a sensory garden and community orchard.

The Shropshire Barn Owl Group visited the field in February and it was confirmed that the field is perfect habitat for a barn owl. The parish council has purchased a barn owl box and Mr Davies has agreed for the box to be sighted on his oak tree in the neighbouring field.

Pot holes had appeared in the road around the Common and this has now been repaired.

Unfortunately, the lottery grant application for a walkway around Parrs Pool was unsuccessful and the Parish Council is looking at other ways of finding funding for this project.

Stanley Parker Playing Fields are used on a regular basis by adult and junior football teams. Bayston Hill Junior Football Club held their annual tournament in June and the adult football teams held their tournament in August, fundraising in the memory of the late John Wellings and all monies went to the Hope House Children's Hospice.

We had John Lawson's circus visit the village on 10-12 September on the Glebelands. This was very successful and enjoyed by everyone who attended the performances. They are coming back again this September so if you did not see them last time, here is another opportunity to go and see them perform.

The Ivor Wright Play Area is very popular with the residents in the village. Unfortunately on a few occasions the toilets have suffered some damage. The Play Area has an upper age limit and we would ask parents to report children over twelve seen playing there to the police.

As on the Parish Achievements page, the parish council have received an 'Awards for All' lottery grant of £10,000 and we are in the process of replacing the old wooden adventure play equipment with new and Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council have given us a grant of £40,000 to resurface the multi use games area with all weather astra turf.

Finance Matters Chair – Clir Jason Manley

Vice Chair - Phil Ragdale

The Parish Council Finance Committee met 13 times this year to carry out monitoring of the budget and expenditure patterns and to recommend/review financial systems to Full Council. This Committee is responsible for carrying out spot checks on financial procedures/systems and ensuring that money has been correctly spent.

The Village's share of the Council Tax raised for the year to April 2008 came to £108,493 and a full break down of receipts and payments are included at the back of this report. The Council is subject to a Central Government organised audit annually by an independent auditor. The full audited accounts, once returned from the external auditors will as usual be available for inspection in the Parish Office later in the year. Notice of their return will be placed in the local village magazine and our newsletter.

Details of the monies actually spent and received during the year are included at the back of this report. The computerised finance programme is working very well and each month the finances are reconciled and each councillor receives detailed reports of the finances to be approved and signed off.

The 2007/08 precept has been set at £111,565, an increase of £3,072 over last year which is roughly £2.75 per household per year. The increase covers increased service supplier costs and staff costs.

Planning Committee Chair – Cllr Hazel Jones Vice Chair – Phil Ragdale

During this past year the Committee, which helps to determine the Council's views on Town and Country Planning development control issues have held 12 meetings and dealt with 38 applications, of these the Borough granted 36, refused 1 and 1 was withdrawn by the applicant. There is 1 currently outstanding.

The Committee continues to have regular consultation with the Borough and County Planning departments as appropriate to consider planning proposals.

Personnel Committee

This is chaired by the Chairman of the Council and comprises the Chairs of the other Committee's. Its role is to supervise the work of the Council's employees. It carries out annual appraisals and reviews performance. It also has administrative functions, such as recruiting new councillors and making appointments on behalf of the Council. The committee looks at developing initiatives to move the Council forward.

Training

During the year the Shropshire Association of Local Councils held training sessions for Shropshire Town and Parish Council members. Members of the Bayston Hill Council attended these sessions and received training on various subjects such as, Budgets and Precept Setting, Powers and Functions, Health & Safety, Planning and Finance.

These training and presentation sessions continue throughout the year and councillors and the Clerk are always encouraged to attend.

Young Councillors

We now have two Young Councillors, Richard James, who joined the Council in June 2007 and Rose Moore who joined us in January 2008. The councillors are delighted that these two young people are contributing with their opinions and ideas in representing the young people of the village.

Crime and Police

This year we lost Community Support Officer Samantha Roberts and gained not one but two Community Support Officers, Lyn Birch and David Bryant. It was decided that Lyn would concentrate on the village and David would spend his time visiting the surrounding areas. This has worked out well as many residents have come know and trust Lyn as she is dedicated and hard working Community Support Officer.

This year we also lost our Local Police Officer, PC Richard Salt, as he moved over to Response unit. His replacement, PC Ram Aston, came on the 20 April and he has some interesting pilot schemes and the parish council are looking forward to hearing about them. Bayston Hill continues to have one of the lowest crime figures in the Borough. Although the weekly police surgery is normally held

in the Library on Tuesday starting at 5.30pm, the Parish Office opened it doors for three weeks for this surgery to take place due to the Library undergoing refurbishment during March.

Anne Chalkley Clerk to the Council

BAYSTON HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Vice Chairman/Planning	Amenities Chairman
Cllr Mrs Janet Whittall	Cllr Mrs Hazel Jones	Cllr E Clarke (Ted)
18 Overdale Road	4 Westbourne Rise	72 Lythwood Road
Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill
SY3 0PA	SY3 0JQ	SY3 ONL
872252	872011	874449
Finance Chairman	Cllr Alan Parkhurst	Cllr Phil Ragdale
Cllr Jason Manley	The Old Chapel	Upland Rise
Leasowes Bank	Grove Lane	Castle Lane
The Maltings	Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill
Bayston Hill	SY3 0ND	SY3 0NJ
SY3 0QE	873930	874164
874214		
Cllr Kathy Turner	Cllr John Crick	Cllr Nick Ponsonby
Rockville	8 Parrs Lane	42 Langley Drive
Lower Pulley Lane	Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill
Bayston Hill	SY3 0JS	SY3 0PR
SY3 0DW	871279	873347
872720		
Cllr Keith Keel	Cllr James Moraghen	Cllr Alan Reynolds
4 Grove Lane	11 Burnell Close	96 Lyth Hill Road
Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill
SY3 0HJ	SY3 0PW	SY3 0EZ
872879	07861 686620	874692
Cllr Dave Engler		
75 Lyth Hill Road		
Bayston Hill	Vacancy	Vacancy
SY3 0HA		
872398		
Young Cllr Richard James	Young Cllr Rose Moore	
14 Fairview Drive	31 Overdale Road	·
Bayston Hill	Bayston Hill	
SY3 0LE	SY3 0LF	
874761	872626	

Clerk to the Council Mrs Anne Chalkley

Office: 01743 874651

Emergency Only: 07852 863001

BAYSTON HILL CRIME FIGURES 2007 - 2008

Burglary Dwelling 0	Description	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
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Bayston Hill Parish Council Income & Expenditure Account 01/04/2007 to 31/03/2008

(Last) Year Ended 31 st. March 2007		(Current) Year Ended 31st. March 2008
	Income Precept Lythwood Recreation Grounds Street Lighting Section 137 General Earmarked - Reserve Fd Common Account Precept Reserve A/C Debts Outstanding	108,493.00 310.00 19,447.34 36.35 69.04 6,604.42 2,794.06 1,424.52 487.86 2,800.44 £142,467.03
	Expenditure Lythwood Recreation Grounds Maintenance Street Lighting Common Staff Salaries Staff Mileage/PPE Clerks Salary Section 137 General Prov for Dbtful Debts	5,734.30 18,914.35 1,812.83 11,889.34 635.00 14,002.11 529.92 25,335.16 755.06 13,864.85 0.00 £93,472.92
	General Fund Balance at 1st. April 2007 ADD Total Income	173,677.11 142,467.03
	DEDUCT Total Expenditure	316,144.14 93,472.92
	Transfer to/from Reserves Balance at 31st. March 2008	222,671.22 0.00 £222,671.22

Parish Council Meetings 2008 - 2009

Date	Meeting	
05-May	Bank Holiday	
06-May	Personnel	
07-May	Amenities	
12-May	Annual Council Meeting	
19-May	Annual Parish Meeting	
26-May	Bank Holiday	
02-Jun		
03-Jun	Personnel	
09-Jun	Amenities	
16-Jun	*Planning/Finance	
23-Jun		
30-Jun	Full Council	
07-Jul	*Planning/Finance	
14-Jul		
17-Jul	Personnel	
21-Jul		
28-Jul	Amenities	
04-Aug	No Meeting	
11-Aug	No Meeting	
18-Aug	No Meeting	
25-Aug	Bank Holiday	
01-Sep	*Planning/Finance	
15-Sep		
22-Sep		
29-Sep	Amenities	
06-Oct	*Planning/Finance	
09-Oct	Personnel	
13-Oct	Amenities Precept	
20-Oct	Full Council	
27-Oct	Finance Precept	

Date	Meeting
03-Nov	*Planning/Finance
10-Nov	
17-Nov	Amenities
24-Nov	
01-Dec	*Planning/Finance
04-Dec	Personnel
08-Dec	
15-Dec	
22-Dec	
29-Dec	
05-Jan	*Planning/Finance
12-Jan	Amenities
19-Jan	Full Council
26-Jan	
02-Feb	*Planning/Finance
09-Feb	
16-Feb	
23-Feb	
02-Mar	*Planning/Finance
09-Mar	
16-Mar	Amenities
23-Mar	*Planning/Finance
30-Mar	
06-Apr	Full Council
13-Apr	Bank Holiday
20-Apr	
27-Apr	Amenities
04-May	Bank Holiday
11-May	Annual Council Meeting
18-May	Annual Parish Meeting
25-May	Bank Holiday

Please Note:

Annual Parish Meeting 7pm
Planning Meetings 7pm followed by Finance at 7.45pm
All other meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated