



## Chairman's Report

## Cllr Mrs Teresa Lewis

In my first year as Chair so much has been discussed at the frequent meetings the council hold over the months, so many decisions and changes have occurred, so many contentious issues have arisen and some challenges to our Village have not always gone our way!

This year has seen our Clerk really finding her feet and kick starting projects well over due for completion; there is still a lot to do but we have great confidence that many more of these will come to fruition as the year progresses. We would like to thank her for her energy and diligence especially in her daily contact with Villagers, dealing with their concerns and worries.

Thanks as ever to our Shropshire Councillor, Councillor Ted Clarke who continues to keep us up to date with what happens at Shirehall.

## Projects

The road surface on **The Common** has been renewed consuming a large percentage of our budget last year as one of only two roads we have responsibility for.

The notice board on the **Parade** has been replaced and the benches improved. As our main method of keeping Villagers up to date with what is going on with the Parish Council and what is being discussed we recommend you take note of this when next passing. Perhaps there is scope for one more board at the other end of the Village?

**The Youth and Community Building** has been upgraded with new fascias, guttering, repainted walls and improvements inside. With its location this building is ideal for children's parties and any other noisy activities, it can be hired out at a very competitive rate, contact the Clerk for details.

**The Allotments** have now been extended, something that has been planned for some time. Now we will be able to eradicate the waiting list - for the time being anyway! I feel it has had a minimum impact on the Sensory Gardens and now many more Villagers can apply for an allotment by approaching the Allotment Association.

## Future Projects

Due mainly to the storms causing damage, we need to fairly quickly make improvements at **Parr's Pool** ensuring that the wooden walking area is repaired. Trees have needed to be cut down and the debris needs collecting and disposing of to make the area tidier.

**The Skate Park** is showing its age and is to be enhanced with out of date features removed and newer elements added; as to what is really needed will depend on the budget and what the users think should be there, so if there are any of our younger Villagers with opinions about this then phone the Parish Office and speak to our Clerk.

The **Longmeadow Playing Area** is again in need of improvement and upgrade and to ensure users opinions are considered can I ask that if you have children under 10 you might phone or e-mail the Clerk and discuss your ideas for what improvements might be needed.

**Building challenges.** Across the whole country, towns and villages are being challenged by developers taking advantage of the current gap in the 5 year housing land supply. Bayston Hill Parish Council is committed to protecting the Village boundary, agreed in both the Parish Plan and SAMDev. As such we have thus far objected to building proposals outside of the boundary, unfortunately without success. Under "essential housing need" we lost a long and hard felt battle over an application for Pulley Lane where permission was eventually granted for 33 affordable homes to be built. As I write this, we are extremely frustrated at the permission given to build a nine house development again off Pulley Lane, the entrance to which has significant safety issues. Sadly it would appear that the National Planning Policy Framework is currently carrying more weight than Localism as the views of local councils and residents are being over ruled by the urgent need for more housing. We await the results of two further applications outside of the boundary which should be considered at the Central Planning Committee within the next couple of months.

The planning process for the development of the **Oaklands** and possibly the **Glebefield** site continues with representatives meeting regularly to help the production of the Development Brief, which will then be put out for further consultation prior to agreement. Obviously it is impossible to satisfy everyone's needs but it is hoped that the majority will be content, the Parish Council continue to listen to and represent Villager's views as appropriate. It is hoped that the Development Brief will be ready by the end of the year.

## Communications

This is one of our greatest challenges as a Council. How do we keep the Village informed of what is going on? I have mentioned already our notice boards; we currently have two, one on the Parade the other on the Common. Current information including the agenda of the next meeting is placed on these boards, also in the Library, in the window of the Parish Office and on the Parish Council website. Over the last year or so our Clerk has used the Villager to try to keep residents informed, however the monthly deadline sometimes limits what can be included. We have plans in place to reinstate a Parish Newsletter; this will appear in each household regularly during the year. Watch out for this later this year. We have an email list of groups in the Village should something need to be distributed quickly and we are grateful to these groups for disseminating that information; equally there is a growing group of Villagers who have expressed an interest via email. However keeping the

Village informed of news and issues remains a challenge as quite often Villagers will say “I did not know about that!”

This Annual Report is currently the only publication that every household will receive and is in itself another way of informing Villagers of what has happened. The challenge is how we inform you all about what **is** happening or **about to** happen? If you can come up with any methods we are not already trying that is both cost and time effective for the Clerk then please let us know.

We are now making plans to update the Parish Plan which was last done in 2010. This will involve inputs from every household within the Village via a survey. The Parish Council recently reviewed the draft Action Plan over the course of three Full Council meetings, the minutes of which can be found on the website or in the Parish Office. Your responses to this survey are another opportunity to inform the Parish Council of your opinions of how and where we develop and grow as a community.

In January I got together representatives from the many influential groups within the Village to hold a Village Summit, the main aim being to seek better ways of working together. Communication was one of two items on the agenda and although there were no easy solutions discussed the conversation itself allowed us to share common interests.

The best way to keep informed is to be a responsible villager by getting into the good practice of reading the notice boards, the Clerk’s article in the Villager and visit the web site if you are able. Personal service is unfortunately not possible due to the limited resources available and remembering also that the Parish Council are all volunteers!

As Chair of the Parish Council I have had the privilege to welcome to the Village on two occasions our energetic Town Mayor Jon Tandy and I commend him for his efforts in supporting the work of Bluebird Care and our Pantomime Group in the very fine work they both do to support the quality of life here in the Village.

I commend to you the work of my fellow Councillors who two or three times a month attend Council meetings for no other reward than to make the decisions, which we can only ever hope, are for the well being of the Village. Though meetings can on occasion be long the work that we do, as earlier indicated, is not boring! The Parish Council still has vacancies, including an opportunity for a Young Councillor; so if you have a public conscience, would like to contribute to the future of your Village and have some spare time a few evenings each month then please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

**Teresa Lewis**  
**Chair, Bayston Hill Parish Council**



## Amenities Committee Report

**Chair – Cllr Ted Clarke**

The past year has been a successful one for the Amenities Committee with the following having been achieved:

- A new notice board purchased and fitted on the Parade \*.
- Repairs to the benches situated on the Parade \*.
- Complete resurfacing of the road around the Common.
- Pothole repairs to the road past the Lythwood Sports Complex.
- Extension of the Allotments \*.
- Repair to the fascias and guttering of the Youth and Community Building and an internal facelift.

The asterisked items above were jointly funded by the Parish Council and Local Joint Committee.

Work has already started on the following projects which we hope to complete within the coming year:

- Repair and update the wooden walkway around Parrs Pool.
- Update and extend the Skate Park.
- Replace the bins on the Parade.
- General tidy up of the area around the Lythwood Sports Complex.
- Repair and replace bus shelters within the Village.

Other projects the Parish Council have identified for the future include:

- Update and improve the Longmeadow Play Park.
- Look at a improvement plan for the street lights within the village.
- Review other street furniture within the village.
- An extension of the BMX track.

As ever we welcome any suggestions from residents for improvements around the village, should you wish to make any please contact the Parish Clerk or bring your ideas along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 27 May 2014.

The facilities up at Stanley Parker Playing Fields remain popular with sports teams, the Astro Turf is booked solidly most evenings and we have two regular teams using the grass pitches on a Sunday. The Parish Council is also pleased to report that Shrewsbury School are now using the pitches as an overflow facility during term time in the football season.



## **Finance Committee Report**

## **Chair - Cllr Alan Parkhurst**

The draft Income and Expenditure Account for Financial Year 2013 – 2014 with accompanying explanatory notes is attached to this report. The Parish Council is pleased to report that, as last year, they have managed to maintain a 0% increase in the Precept, this means that the annual Band D Council Tax Precept Charge remains at £65.70 per household.

The Precept allocations were set and agreed at a Council meeting held on 20 January 2014, with the final adjustments having been completed once the end of year figures were available. In order to ensure the Parish Council fully complies with Financial Governance legislation at least one internal and one external audit is conducted each financial year. The last internal audit was conducted in April 2014 and the external one will be conducted once the Annual Return has been submitted at the end of June. All Audit reports will be available in the Parish Office, on-line and in the Library.

The Parish Council continues to strive to ensure best value for money in all of the expenditure it incurs. We are constantly looking at ways to improve village amenities; not only to benefit residents but to encourage further income generation. Our new relationship with Shrewsbury School has helped increase the income from the Lythwood Sports Complex in Financial Year 13/14 and hopefully will continue to do so in the future. To ensure value for money when appointing outside contractors, the Parish Council ensures at least three quotes are obtained for all work valued above £100, we aim, where possible, to use local contractors.

Finance Meetings continue to be held quarterly where all financial aspects of the Parish Council are monitored closely, these include regular paper trail audits of specific contracts and projects and this year there has been a newly instigated process where the councillors spot-check financial documentation.

The Parish Council Budget is showing a positive carry forward figure into Financial Year 14/15. The total has been boosted significantly by the receipt of over £20,000 Local Joint Committee funding, which the Council is holding on their behalf. These monies will go towards several projects planned for the coming year. We look forward to completing further enhancement projects following on from the recent successful allotment extension. Our next improvement project will be the updating and expansion of the Skate Park.



## **Planning Committee Report**

### **Chair – Cllr Max Ball**

The past year has not been an easy one for Bayston Hill with relation to planning following the revelation that Shropshire is unable to provide its required 5 year housing land supply. This has put pressure on Shropshire Council's Central Planning Committee to approve developments that are in contravention of both Bayston Hill's Parish Plan and the draft SAMDev in order to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework and to avoid expensive appeal costs.

Whilst aware that affordable housing is desperately needed in the County, the Parish Council still supports the protection of the gap between Shrewsbury and Bayston Hill as outlined in the Parish Plan and agreed by the old Atcham and Borough council. The Parish Council was disappointed with the decision by the Central Planning Committee in March to approve a development for 33 houses on land adjacent to Mary Webb Road, off Pulley Lane despite some considerable time and effort by the Planning Committee and several residents in opposition to the proposal. Unfortunately the only route to challenge this decision is via the courts which would be lengthy and expensive.

Sadly the application for Pulley Lane is not the only proposal on land previously deemed inappropriate for development, in April an application for 9 new market value houses was approved at Leylands on Pulley Lane opposite the Green Lane turning despite safety concerns over the site of the access road. As we go to print we await the appearance at Central Planning Committee of two further applications, one at Hanley Lane and another at Gorse Lane.

The Planning Committee meets regularly to discuss the most recent applications and we welcome comments from residents whether in writing or at the actual meetings themselves. Please keep an eye on notice boards and the website for notification of when the next Planning meeting will be.

**Bayston Hill Parish Council**  
**Draft Income & Expenditure Account 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014**

<i>Previous Year</i> <i>End 31 March 2013</i> (£)		<i>Current Year</i> <i>End 31 March 2014</i> (£)
	<b><u>Income</u></b>	
119,207.00	Precept	117,760.00
6,035.32	Lythwood Sports Complex 1	15,085.27
2,674.07	Recreation Area 2	468.90
0.00	Village General Maintenance 3	5,000.00
0.00	Street Lighting	500.00
100.00	The Village Common	150.00
2,414.55	Power of Well-being	321.95
0.00	General Office Expenditure	47.77
17,287.02	General Parish Expenditure	5,856.72
268.05	Earmarked Account 4	24,493.14
2,007.31	Common Account	5.96
72.04	Precept Reserve Account	93.44
<b>150,055.36</b>		<b>169,783.15</b>

	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
7,478.85	Lythwood Sports Complex 5	9,091.29
6,544.47	Recreation Area 5	7,404.03
5,109.80	Village General Maintenance	1,076.43
16,061.09	Street Lighting	17,414.91
302.50	The Village Common 6	4,648.83
33,956.14	Staff Salaries	36,155.50
312.55	Staff Mileage/PPE	561.66
3,614.29	Employers Staff Pension/NI 7	2,929.41
2,535.27	Power of Well-being	3,777.46
3,790.42	General Office Expenditure 8	4,883.12
36,835.95	General Parish Expenditure	6,237.67
2,009.57	Earmarked Account 6	12,768.68
0.00	Common Account 6	6,190.00
<b>118,550.90</b>		<b>113,138.99</b>

**General Fund**

Balance at 1 April 2013	255,548.27
ADD Total Income	169,783.15
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	425,331.42
DEDUCT Total Expenditure	113,138.99
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	312,192.43
Transfer to/from Reserves	0.00
Balance at 31 March 2014 9	<b>312,192.43</b>

## NOTES:

1. Income for the Lythwood Sports Complex appears significantly higher in FY 13/14 this is due to increased usage of the grass pitches and astro turf, including use by Shrewsbury School and the processing of some overdue invoices from the previous FY.
2. The Youth and Community Building has not brought in the income forecast this year, however following refurbishment it is hoped that this will improve for the coming FY.
3. This large amount of income was generated by receipt of the overdue funds to pay for the Vehicle Activated Sign.
4. The amount of funds received into the earmarked account has greatly increased due to the Parish Council having received some £20,000 which they are holding on behalf of the Local Joint Committee. This funding has been attributed to specific future projects.
5. Both of these cost centres have spent more due to refurbishment of the areas.
6. The funds in these accounts have been utilised to pay for the repairs to the road around the Common.
7. Staff Pension costs have gone down due to less employees being enrolled in the scheme.
8. The electricity costs for the Office have escalated expenditure in FY 13/14 due to inadequate heating, this has now been resolved and a reduction is expected in the coming year.
9. Whilst the balance has increased significantly at the end of this Financial Year several projects are in the planning stage and it is expected that this figure will be reduced by the end of the coming FY. The RFO will be filing a detailed report to the external auditor, Mazars at the end of June which will be available for viewing in the Parish Office.



# Bayston Hill Parish Councillors

In addition to the Chairs of each Committee the following Councillors are on the Parish Council:

	<b>Fred Jones</b>		<b>Janet Whittall</b>
	<b>Teresa Trickett</b>		<b>James Moraghen</b>
	<b>Keith Keel</b>		<b>Ian Gordon</b>

Please keep us informed of your opinions and suggestions for amenities around the village and we would welcome your interest in Council meetings, please see the Villager or Parish Website for details of future meeting dates.

Vacancies still exist on the Parish Council so if you would like to be involved in the management of your Community please contact the Parish Clerk.

# Youth and Community Building

The Youth and Community Building is situated opposite the entrance to the Lythwood Sports Complex. It is a single storey building that offers a good sized area with a kitchen, toilets and landscaped garden suitable for a wide variety of uses at a very competitive price.

In the last few months the roof, fascias and guttering have been repaired, the external walls have been repaired and painted and the insides have been given a facelift. The Parish Council are grateful to a regular user of the facility who has undertaken much of the cosmetic work.

Anyone interested in hiring the building should contact the Parish Clerk on 01743 874651 or if outside of office hours please contact Councillor Ted Clarke.



# **Dog Control Orders**

Residents may be aware from recent press articles and information contained within the Villager that there has been some confusion over the usage of the Stanley Parker Playing Fields in light of the new Shropshire County Council Dog Exclusion Orders.

The new regulations only exclude dogs from deliberately using the marked pitches. Access to the Stanley Parker Playing Fields is retained by dogs, but owners should endeavour to keep them off the marked pitches and not allow them to foul the pitches.

## **Bayston Hill Annual Parish Meeting**

**And finally a further reminder about the Annual Parish Meeting which is your opportunity to come and listen to some useful information and provide feedback to your Parish Council. This year's meeting has a 'Health and Wellbeing' theme and there will be refreshments provided. Look out for the full Agenda in all the usual places around the Village.**