



Chairman's Report

Cllr Mrs Teresa Lewis

Every day there is something that reminds me how lucky I am to be living in the Village of Bayston Hill, from the wonderful countryside and walks which surround us, to the people who live here and work hard to improve the community with what they do.

Like most communities and villages throughout the country Bayston Hill has not escaped the attack from housing developers attempting to dramatically change the look of our countryside and Village itself with extended urban growth - usually of executive style homes. For Bayston Hill the worry still remains that the gap between us, a unique village, and Shrewsbury town is being eroded by two development requests that are still awaiting a decision from the Central Planning Committee. If, like me, you feel strongly about this then the Annual Parish Meeting in the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm on 1 June 2015 will allow you to hear from representatives from the Shropshire Council Planning department. They will hopefully be able to provide some explanations for recent actions and to give us an update of where we currently are with our planning applications and any future development plans for Bayston Hill.

At the beginning of my two year post as Chair of the Parish Council, I did think that I would by now have seen the Oakmeadow/Glebeland development proposition at the building phase or at least expected some interesting decisions to have been made that satisfied all involved parties and a promising final proposal. Unfortunately the cogs of "local resolution making" have moved very slowly indeed.

I would like to reassure you that the Parish Council Planning Committee has remained consistent in its approach to planning applications, which supports the results of the consultation that contributed towards the Bayston Hill Parish Plan Review published in 2010, that being to limit development to within the Parish boundary. Whilst the Committee will review each planning application it receives on its own merits, we remain determined to object to any proposals outside of the established village boundary and which contravenes the current SAM Dev plan. New builds that could reduce the quality of life of neighbouring villagers will also be objected to.

Over the last two years some big and long awaited projects, many of which were outstanding from the 2010 review of the Parish Plan, have been completed to a good quality but, as we all know when being responsible for facilities and land there is always something to do! We have continued to review projects to ensure both good practice and good value for money are ensured as the reports from the Amenities and Financial Committees will both reflect. We are now looking to produce a plan for the village to cover the next ten to fifteen years. To do this a group has been established who are just about to "kick start" the process of consultation with residents, vital in order to gain a whole Village perspective, to formulate our new Community Led Plan (the

recommended replacement for the Parish Plan). Can I ask that you look out for information about this and make your valuable contribution by voicing your ideas and opinions? The Parish Council needs to know where and how you see our Village face the next ten to fifteen years?

Communication with residents continues to be a challenge. We still regularly hear the phrase “I did not know about that – I was not told”. My response is that everything that the Parish Council does at its frequent meetings is recorded and once agreed minutes are posted on the Parish Council website, on two notice boards and in the Library. For those who use Facebook we will not be having a Parish Council Page but some members of the Parish Council have been trailing the Villager page to remind readers of things happening. We will be reviewing this practice and I would be interested in any comments or suggestions anyone might have. I would like to commend The Villager for their initiative with their website and social media introduction; so please be aware that there are two sites, the Parish Council has one as does The Villager; there will be links from one to the other. We continue to seek new and varied means of informing the Village of what is going on where this is practically possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the work of the Jubilation Group, they work hard to keep some of the Bayston Hill traditions alive such as the Parade, Fete and Community games. They need your support in very small ways to take part in these activities and, if you could spare some time to contribute to the planning process it would help to lighten their load. We would not want to see their enthusiasm wain by not having you play your part to support them.

We are at present welcoming back our Clerk Emma Kay after her maternity leave and wish to thank Anne Cousins for her very fine work stepping into this challenging job; we have enjoyed working with you. Equally we are fortunate to have welcomed three new Parish Councillors. Though delighted to have increased our numbers there are still vacancies especially if you are 16+ as we have been without Young Councillors for some time now! Anyone interested should contact the Parish Office.

To finish then, I will hand the Parish Council Chair to Fred Jones at the Annual Council Meeting on 11 May 2015 and wish him well in this post hoping he will enjoy the work as much as I have.

Teresa Lewis
Chair, Bayston Hill Parish Council



Amenities Committee Report

Chair – Cllr Ted Clarke

This has been a busy but very positive year, completing various long delayed Parish initiatives.

The Lythwood youth area has been improved with the 2 additional skate-park ramps and complete resurfacing of the BMX track. The lane hedge has been reduced and re-laid and flood light provided to make the area more open and hospitable for young users.

The long overdue resurfacing of the Common road and the surface dressing of Lythwood lane has been completed and all the faulty lighting along the lane repaired.

The small extension of allotment space at Lythwood was completed early last year.

The board-walk at Parr's Pool has been refurbished and a better none-slip surfacing installed. Following our tree survey various trees have been carefully attended to in the vicinity of the pool.

We have completed the first phase of our long term plan to replace aging Parish lamp posts and to gradually introduce LED lighting in place of the inefficient sodium lights, work will continue on street lights throughout the coming year.

The Pavilion area has received some long overdue attention, including provision of storage bays and cut backs of overgrowth right around the perimeter. Hopefully this will resolve constant moss and leaf debris problems on the tennis and astro turf courts.

We are currently creating space and garaging for a small tractor and implements to improve the mowing and maintenance of the Lythwood fields and our green areas.

The leaking Pavilion tiled roof will be entirely stripped for replacement of faulty timbers and new under felt in May, after first removing the solar panels temporarily.

On The Parade, the litter bins and notice board have been replaced and the benches refurbished. The Parish Council plan to install bollard flower planters on the frontage this summer.

And finally we have managed to encourage an eagle to settle on Pulley Lane . . .

Ted Clarke
Chair of Amenities Committee



Tempest ©

Finance Committee Report

Chair - Cllr Alan Parkhurst

The draft Income and Expenditure Account for Financial Year 2014 – 2015 with accompanying explanatory notes is attached to this report. Due to the decision by Shropshire Council to remove the Council Tax Support Grant, the loss of the Shrewsbury School use of the playing fields and after a rigorous audit of spending, the Parish Council has reluctantly increased the Precept for the coming year, this means that the annual Band D Council Tax Precept Charge will rise from £65.70 to £68.50 per household.

The Precept allocations were set and agreed at a Council meeting held on 12 January 2015, 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 2015 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 and welcome suggestions from residents. 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.

The Finance Committee 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, most recently an audit was conducted into the Skate Park improvement and extension project. Councillors continue to undertake regular spot-checks of financial documentation.

The Parish Council has been able to utilise some of the Local Joint Committee money that was transferred across last year, specifically for the extension to the Allotments, the purchase of some bollard mounted planters for the parade and two community grants. The remaining funds held on behalf of the LJC will be allocated to specific projects in the coming year. We look forward to completing further enhancement projects our next being the updating and expansion of the Longmeadow Play Park.

Alan Parkhurst

Chair of Finance Committee



Planning Committee Report

Chair – Cllr Max Ball

The last twelve months has again been an incredibly busy one in planning terms for Bayston Hill, the National Planning Policy Framework and Shropshire being unable to provide its required 5 year housing land supply have sent the developers into overdrive. In the early half of the year Shropshire Council's Central Planning Committee was still feeling the pressure to approve developments that are in contravention of both Bayston Hill's Parish Plan and the draft SAMDev in order to comply with current regulations and to avoid expensive appeal costs.

You will have seen that work on the land adjacent to Mary Webb Road, off Pulley Lane has begun and several houses can now be seen, sadly as predicted we have received a further planning application for the next field along. The Parish Council has objected to this application and we await a response from the planners. There have been several other outline applications submitted for other sites that sit outside the Parish Boundary including Gorse Lane, Hereford Road and Pulley Lane all of which the Committee have objected to. However, as we go to print, a glimmer of hope has appeared, the Parish Council has received notification that the proposal to develop land to the north of Gorse Lane (planning application 14/05324/OUT) has been refused by planning officers. Obviously the developers still have a right to appeal, but it is hoped that the tide is beginning to turn.

The Planning Committee continues to meet 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.

Max Ball

Chair of Planning Committee

Bayston Hill Parish Council
Draft Income & Expenditure Account 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

<i>Previous Year</i> <i>End 31 March 2014</i> (£)		<i>Current Year</i> <i>End 31 March 2015</i> (£)
	<u>Income</u>	
117,760.00	Precept ¹	110,601.00
15,085.27	Lythwood Sports Complex ²	10,645.74
468.90	Recreation Area	444.76
5,000.00	Village General Maintenance	0.00
500.00	Street Lighting	0.00
150.00	The Village Common	0.00
321.95	Grants ³	0.00
47.77	General Office Expenditure ¹	6,971.86
5,856.72	General Parish Expenditure	5,800.31
24,493.14	Earmarked Account ⁴	2,592.23
5.96	Common Account	0.00
93.44	Precept Reserve Account	97.14
169,783.15		137,153.04

	<u>Expenditure</u>	
9,091.29	Lythwood Sports Complex ⁵	15,463.04
7,404.03	Recreation Area	6,989.10
1,076.43	Village General Maintenance ⁶	4,564.63
17,414.91	Street Lighting	17,908.71
4,648.83	The Village Common	444.83
36,155.50	Staff Salaries ⁷	40,063.20
561.66	Staff Mileage/PPE	448.69
2,929.41	Employers Staff Pension/NI ⁸	3,463.82
3,777.46	Grants	0.00
4,883.12	General Office Expenditure	3,830.81
6,237.67	General Parish Expenditure	4,788.01
12,768.68	Earmarked Account ⁹	63,790.18
6,190.00	Common Account	0.00
0.00	Precept Reserve Account	704.53
113,138.99		162,459.55

General Fund

Balance at 1 April 2014	312,192.43
ADD Total Income	137,153.04

	449,345.47
DEDUCT Total Expenditure	162,459.55

	286,885.92
Transfer to/from Reserves	0.00
Balance at 31 March 2015 ¹⁰	286,885.92

NOTES:

1. The Precept figure does not include the Council Tax Support Grant of £6,537 and Neighbourhood Fund of £401.79 which are included under the General Office Expenditure heading.
2. The income from Lythwood has reduced compared to last year due to the loss of the Shrewsbury School contract, usage and income is still up on previous years.
3. This cost centre has been designated as Grants in the short term until the Parish Council conforms to the criteria required under the General Power of Competence, at which time it will be renamed to reflect this.
4. This heading is now split into three sections: Asset Renewals, Reserve Funds and LJC Specific Funding – income has come from interest on the bank accounts and a further LJC grant.
5. This expenditure from this cost centre has increased in the past financial year due to improvement of the area.
6. Compared to FY13/14 this cost centre appears greatly increased, however last years' costs for the vehicle activated sign fell in this financial year. This is normal expenditure compared to previous years.
7. Salary costs have increased due to annual pay increases and the cost of a Locum Clerk during this financial year.
8. The Employer's contribution rate to Staff Pensions went up significantly in FY13/14.
9. The spending from the Earmarked funds has increased significantly in the last financial year due to several large projects having been undertaken, these include: extension to the Allotments; improvements to the Skate Park; a lamp post improvement programme; new tractor; improvements to Parrs Pool walkway and improvements to the Lythwood Pavilion area.
10. As predicted in last years' Annual Report the end of year balance has reduced, whilst it remains healthy several further 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:




	Fred Jones Vice Chair Committees: Finance, Planning & Personnel		Janet Whittall Committees: Amenities
	Teresa Trickett Committees: Planning & Finance		James Moraghen Committees: Planning
	Keith Keel Committees: Amenities & Finance		Ian Gordon Committees: Finance & Planning
	Paul Breeze Committees: To be decided		Arthur Gouge Committees: To be decided
	Laura Whitmarsh Committees: To be decided		

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. There are also two vacancies for Young Councillors, if you would like to be involved and are under the age of 18 then please get in contact.

BAYSTON HILL PARISH COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

The following people work for the Parish Council, please grab one of us should you wish to pass something on or even if you would just like to say hello.

Emma Kay Parish Clerk	
Roger Pugh Handyman	
Brian Evans Handyman	
Julie Clarke Longmeadow Keyholder	

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.

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.



OAKLANDS/GLEBEFIELD PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Parish Council continues to represent the wishes of residents at the steering group that is trying to put together a development plan that can hopefully be passed on to the developer that takes on the project. Whilst it is acknowledged that the preferred option would be to retain the Glebefield as it is, the land does not belong to the Parish Council and with only 4 years remaining on the current lease it is of more community benefit for the Parish Council to be involved in the development plan discussions to ensure the best result possible for the village.

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 Planning theme and there will be refreshments provided. Look out for the full Agenda in all the usual places around the Village.

**Monday 1 June 2015
7.00pm
in the Bayston Hill
Memorial Hall**