



NEWSLETTER

Your Community Connection

Spring 2015 Issue 29

Experienced Clerk Appointed

Following the retirement of Margaret Cartwright, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Jackie Essex as Clerk to the Council.

Jackie started at the beginning of March and is looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months and hopes to be able to continue with Margaret's good work.

Jackie grew up in Leamington Spa and has lived in Warwickshire all her life. She moved to Barnacle with her husband 10 years ago and shares her house with their cocker spaniel and three cats! They thoroughly enjoy village life and being part of a local community.

Jackie has worked for councils in Warwickshire all her career. This has given her a good understanding of how councils work and how to get things done - experience she hopes to put to good use in helping Wolvey residents.

Although she does not live in the village, Jackie is just down the road. So, please do not hesitate to contact her if you have any



Our New Clerk
Jackie Essex

problems or concerns with which she may be able to assist you or which you want her to bring to the attention of your Parish Council.

The new contact details are next to this article.



Wolvey Parish Councillors

Ruth Buswell	01455 221324
Andrew Dixon	01455 220771
John Hardman	01455 220252
Dee Kenrick	01455 221782
Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771
Clare Nixon	01455 220639
Keith Orchard	01455 220688

Clerk to the Council

Jackie Essex
19 Spring Road
Barnacle Warwickshire
CV7 9LG

Tel: 024 7601 6337
Email: clerk@wolvey.org

Council Meeting Dates

To facilitate our Youth Club, Council meetings will be held in the Wolvey Baptist Chapel at 7.30pm on:

Monday 13th April 2015

Monday 18th May 2015

Monday 22nd June 2015

Annual Parish Meeting (this is not a meeting of the Council but a meeting for the electors of the Parish) to be held in Wolvey Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 29th April, 2015

For the minutes of our meetings and more information, please visit our website

www.wolvey.org

Mobile Police Visits

Parked in the Square between 1.15 and 2.45pm

Wednesday 15th April 2015

Sunday 17th May 2015

Wednesday 3rd June 2015

Wednesday 24th June 2015

Volunteers are needed to deliver this Newsletter. If you can help, please contact the Clerk.

Thank You Margaret

The Parish Council would like to express its sincere gratitude to Margaret Cartwright as she prepares to retire from her role as Clerk. Margaret has been the driving force in acquiring Quality Parish Status. With her unstinting, dependable and conscientious approach, she has developed both her own role and the Council's to a level of professionalism that befits a modern Parish Council.

Margaret has been a Council employee for almost nine years. She has managed to keep abreast of new procedures and legislation whilst also staying in touch with local issues. A measure of her dedication is that, in her own time, she studied for and passed with distinction, the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Margaret has always been accessible to councillors and local residents and has built good working relationships with many other organisations. She is held in high regard for her efficiency and knowledge amongst her many other attributes. We wish her the very best for her retirement and hope that she will continue to enjoy good health and happiness.

YC Slips into Spring on Snowdome Slopes

In January, members enjoyed an exciting evening of snow and speed as they dared the Snowdome slopes on toboggans - without too many icy tumbles. A hearty meal in the Aspen Restaurant afterwards rounded off the evening well. The experience was new for some young people - building self-confidence and mutual support - and the Club was able to open up the trip to younger, prospective members. This great trip was made possible with support from the Heart of England Community Foundation's grant funding and our fab volunteers.

At the Club in March members enjoyed dodge ball with volunteer Kate Jones, table tennis with volunteer, Steve Hobley and Katie Haughian (Young Leader), organised craft activities creating amazing Easter hats and decorating an Easter tree for the Spring Fair at the Church where

our other Young Leader Caitlin Boyle manned a stall. We plan to organise more challenging trips and activities for the summer term and get involved in community events. We also look forward to welcoming new members who will be 11 years old this term.

Due to other commitments, Laura Perkins, Volunteer Youth Leader, and Nicola Boyle, parent Chairman of the Management Committee have had to leave or reduce their involvement with the club. They have both been pivotal in establishing the Club, and we would like to recognise and thank them both for all their hard work. We hope to welcome a new Volunteer Youth Worker shortly. Young people have stepped up to



Easter hats modelled by (left to right) Caitlin Boyle, Megan Daniels, Katie Haughian and Jess Robson

help plan activities and events, but **we do still need more parent support on the Management Committee**; a role which involves just 3 to 4 meetings a year but is vital for our continuing success.

Watching out for Wolvey



The second meeting of the Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch Group was held in January.

PCSO Sharon Bailie Crabtree attended to give information on being 'crime wise' in the area and to give information on Warwickshire Rural Watch and Smartwater initiatives. She also offered advice on how to set up and train volunteers for a Community Speed Watch.

The April meeting of the group was postponed as Sharon advised that there

are to be changes in the way NHW is run and administered.

The next meeting will be now take place in June when the new arrangements will be in place.

For more information on the opportunity to join Wolvey Neighbourhood Watch, please ring Cllr Ruth Buswell on 01455 221324.

It's a Life Saver

A full complement of 12 Wolvey residents recently took part in a first aid course organised by the Parish Council.

The course was delivered by CPA Health & Safety and was well received by the participants.

One participant said, "I found it very useful indeed and I would encourage other residents to attend." Another felt that "there were just the right amount of people and the instructor was excellent."

Participants learned how to treat casualties who were not breathing or breathing irregularly and how to put them into the recovery position.

The course also covered defibrillation and dealing with choking and bleeding.

It is reassuring to know that there are now 12 more people with first aid skills in the local community.

The Council intends to repeat the course later in the year, so please look out for further details in forthcoming newsletters and on our website.



Wolvey residents practice life saving skills during the recent first aid course

Wolvey Annual Litter Pick



Please come and join us to help make a difference to the look of your village.

Saturday April 11th 2015
Meet at the Wolvey Baptist Chapel
from 9.30am

Equipment provided except gloves
so please bring your own.

Refreshments All Welcome

Bus Services

Included in the Parish Council's Action Plan for 2014/15 is the task of seeking to improve the bus services connecting Wolvey with the adjoining towns. It appeared that there was scope to improve the existing services to and from Wolvey. Existing routes could be diverted or extended to improve connections with Hinckley and Lutterworth.

To examine this further Wolvey Councillors met with representatives from Arriva and Warwickshire County Council. The County Council subsidises bus services but in the current financial climate support is limited and the cost effects of extending some of the services were explained. Improvements to the existing services will be difficult but we ensured that the needs of Wolvey residents are taken into account when services and timetables are reviewed. The County will report back to us if the current service of one bus per week to Hinckley can be improved.

New to Wolvey?

The Council has compiled a warm Welcome Pack for new residents. It has a host of useful information to help new arrivals to settle in to village life.

It has details of refuse collection days, doctor's surgery times, church services and a very user friendly village map.

So, if you know of residents moving in near you, please let the Clerk or a Councillor know and a pack will be winging its way to your new neighbour.



All Aboard for a Great Day Out

Wolvey's groups and clubs are now making use of the Hinckley & Bosworth Community Transport scheme.

7 and 16 seater minibuses are available but book early to avoid disappointment. Just ring 01455-250462, provide your groups details and enjoy a day out - they even provide a driver.

For example, why not plan a fantastic day trip to Bourton-on-the -Water with 16 passengers this costs just £9.95 per person.

The Council encourages you to promote, use and enjoy this facility.

Group Grants Help

The Council has for many years awarded grants to village groups who show they have a need for financial help with their activities. These grants come out of the Council Tax you pay as part of the precept and are administered in accordance with an agreed policy.

The pressure on all councils to reduce costs meant we were unable to meet organisation's expectations in the current year. Similarly, the budget for grants next year will be smaller.

However, there are other sources which can be contacted for financial help. The best known is the Lottery fund, but Rugby

Borough Council and Warwickshire CAVA are other possible sources of grants.

The Council has some experience in getting grant support for a variety of projects, so help is nearby.

If your organisation needs to find grant funding and requires help in getting started, then please come along to the Annual Parish Meeting in Wolvey Village Hall on 29th April at 7.30pm, when there will be a speaker to explain how voluntary groups can raise funds.

WEG Steps into Spring - but not on the Boardwalk

It has been a frustrating few winter months for Wolvey Environment Group. Our beloved Wetland Reserve has remained closed because of a serious failing of the boardwalk treads. So, we have not been able to carry out any spring planting, tidying or even to visit the area for quite a while - we all have withdrawal symptoms!

Hopefully, a resolution will be reached soon and the treads will be repaired. Even then it will take some time for the volunteers to complete the task.

The group have though continued to do other environment enhancing tasks; cutting hedges, planting snowdrops and other bulbs, tidying the Village Square.

We are always looking for new members, so why not come to one of our meetings, see how we work, and help to keep this lovely Award winning green area we live in as you would want it to be. You will have some fun and meet new friends. It is hard work sometimes, but it is very rewarding.

We meet monthly at the Baptist Chapel on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

We look forward to you joining us.

For more information ring Cllr Ruth Buswell on 221324.



Clerk's Corner

The 'Quality Council' scheme has recently been replaced by the 'Local Council Award' with a new set of criteria by which the Council is measured. This is a nationally recognised standard which demonstrates achievement and commitment to improvement. Wolvey Parish Council has been awarded Foundation level status on the new scheme which means that the old 'Q' logo must be replaced by a new 'Foundation' logo. This means that the Wolvey Council logo and letter heading will also change.

In addition, the contact details for the Council will also change, because, after nearly nine years, I have decided to retire as Clerk to the PC. The Council has appointed Mrs Jackie Essex as my replacement and I will be working with her for the first three months to ensure a smooth handover.

Overall, I have enjoyed my time as Clerk. I am satisfied that the Council is now in a better position than when I joined and there is much better understanding of the roles of the Clerk and of the Council. Changes in legislation have caused the role to expand significantly, with a corresponding increase in demand on the Clerk's time. There have been challenges and frustrations due to the limitations on what the Council can and can't do and the public's perception and understanding of these limitations.

However, we have achieved significant success, which includes attaining Quality Parish status; winning the Best Village in Warwickshire award 2011; Wolvey Parish Plan; Parish Council website; this Newsletter; the Welcome Pack for new residents; Boardwalk at the Wetland; £25000 in grants for new play and exercise equipment at the Playing Fields; annual Christmas tree; hanging baskets and planters in the Square and the new Youth Club to name but a few. There has also been the Summer Festival in 2009, Jubilee celebrations and the Sixty Years of a Village at Play project in 2012.

I do believe that we have raised the profile of Wolvey and the Council in both Rugby and Warwickshire, which is important when decisions are made by higher authorities.

Wolvey now has a Council that is professional, enthusiastic and committed to making a real difference to the lives of the people of Wolvey.

I am confident that in Jackie's capable hands, it will continue to be successful in its endeavours. I wish her every success in her new role.

Margaret Cartwright
Clerk to the Council

Taxing Times

Each year Wolvey Parish Council informs Rugby Borough Council of the costs to be included in the Council Tax Bill. This is for works carried out by the Council in and around the village and is called the Parish Council Precept. For 2015/16 the Council has requested an increase that equates to an extra £3.63 per year (30p per month) for a D property in the Parish.

The Council appreciates that any increase is unwelcome in the current economic climate. However, there are two highly unusual items of expected expenditure: professional representation/fees in relation to possible planning applications for wind turbines and matters relating to the repairs of the Wetland boardwalk. The Council does have reserve funds available for emergency situations but these have been reduced in recent years and are now at the minimum recommended for the Council.

Accordingly, a figure of £5000 has been allocated in this year's budget to allow the Council to engage professional advice and assistance in relation to wind turbines. Of course, it is to be hoped that circumstances will not require this expenditure, but it is necessary to make provision.

As you will know, the Wetland has been closed to the public since the autumn. The Council is in discussion with the supplier of the boardwalk materials and it is to be hoped that this issue can be resolved through agreement without resorting to formal action. Nevertheless, it has been necessary to allocate £3000 should this need arise.

The Council also wants to continue achieving improvements for the village. Included in the budget for the coming year are funds to carry out the necessary replacement of the deteriorating concrete streetlights and to purchase two defibrillators which will be accessible by residents. External funding is also being sought and a grant has been received from the County Council.

Where possible savings in expenditure have been made, but overall there has been an increase in the budget from £35,000 in 2014/15 to £37,000 for the forthcoming year.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the people of Wolvey to speak, raise any concerns or express ideas for the future of their local community.

Local Groups are invited to provide information about what they do, also the Parish Council makes a report on its activities and achievements during the past year, including a financial report.

Local Borough and County Councillors will be invited to speak and answer questions
There will also be a speaker to explain how voluntary groups can raise funds.

**This year's meeting is to be held on
Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

All electors of the Parish are invited to attend and take part in this meeting
Refreshments will be available

