



# NEWSLETTER

Your Community Connection

Summer 2015 Issue 30

## Roles, Responsibilities and Recruitment

Wolvey Parish Council consists of a maximum of seven councillors, elected by Wolvey residents. The most recent election was last year. However, as there was the same number of candidates as vacancies, the current Council was deemed elected so a formal ballot was unnecessary. We are the lowest tier of local government dealing with civil matters. For historical reasons, the electoral boundary of Wolvey Parish Council is largely defined by the area covered by the local parish church - hence the retention of the word in our title. However, there the coincidence and connection with church matters ends.

Councils have a strictly defined remit; we can't make it up as we go along. On election or co-option, we sign up to a national Code of Conduct and a set of Standing Orders that ensure we function lawfully. Although government tiers above us are organised on party political lines we endeavour to, and should remain, neutral and independent.

We are not alone. We are 1 of the 40 Parish Councils in the Rugby Borough Ward and the 9,000 Councils in England. We are also members of the National and Warwickshire Associations of Local Councils that are invaluable sources of help and advice. Training is always available and a couple of years ago when we had some new councillors, the tutor came to us - a great induction for new councillors and a welcome recap for the rest of us.

We are a democratic team. A councillor cannot act or make decisions on behalf of the Council without it being previously agreed they can do so and we are all bound by a majority resolution. This is done at our monthly meetings that are not public but the public is invited to attend as observers. We do however have a slot on the agenda should any residents want to raise any issues. All councillors are equal and the only extra 'powers' the Chair has

are to manage the meetings and a casting vote where a vote is tied. Like all other Councils we must employ a Clerk whose role it is to deal with all administration, financial matters and most importantly ensure that we are functioning within the law. The Clerk does not have a vote.

We spend your money. In order to discharge our duties we get a small part of what you pay in Council Tax. At our annual Budget Meeting we decide how much we will need and then Rugby Borough Council pays it to us. We endeavour to keep it as low as possible. Last year it was £32,000.

Our duties are varied. There's the mundane, such as street lighting and eradicating dog mess and the more enjoyable, such as organising the annual Christmas Tree event, providing defibrillators, co-ordinating WW1 commemorations, putting on First Aid courses and much more.

We like to maintain good communication links with Wolvey residents, not just to inform you about what we are doing but also to find out the needs of the community we serve. To this end we have this Newsletter, a web site, are now 'tweeting', distribute a Welcome Pack for new residents and have held Open Days. Councillors and the Clerk are just at the end of a phone.

As we are all volunteers, it is inevitable and indeed desirable that there is a turnover of Councillors. New ideas and skills keep the Council vibrant. Two councillors have now retired, so we have two vacancies.

**If you want to work with old friends or make new ones and have the satisfaction and fulfilment of benefitting your community at the same time, please apply for co-option.**

Details are on the back page.



### Wolvey Councillors

Ruth Buswell	01455 221324
Andrew Dixon	01455 220771
Dee Kenrick	01455 221782
Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771
Clare Nixon	01455 220639

### Clerk to the Council

Jackie Essex  
19 Spring Road  
Barnacle Warwickshire  
CV7 9LG

Tel: 024 7601 6337  
Email: [clerk@wolvey.org](mailto: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	22nd June, 2015
Monday	20th July, 2015
Monday	17th August, 2015
Monday	21st September, 2015
Wolvey Bowling Club	
Monday	19 October, 2015

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

[www.wolvey.org](http://www.wolvey.org)

### Mobile Police Visits

Parked in The Square between 1.15 and 2.45pm

Wednesday	24th June, 2015
Wednesday	12th August, 2015
Wednesday	2nd September, 2015
Sunday	4th October, 2015
Wednesday	21st October, 2015

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

## Summer's Here, Expectations are High

Summer's here at last. Everywhere is beautifully green, hanging baskets are in place, summer bedding is in the tubs, and at last work can begin to repair the boardwalk at the Wetland which has been closed for some months.

Wolvey Environment Group (with some voluntary help from Galliford personnel) will be underpinning the boardwalk treads to make the area safe once more for visitors. The wildlife in the Reserve is abundant at the moment, ducklings, tadpoles, colourful butterflies and birds, a huge growth of grasses and plants. The only sad note is that although the area has been entered for the Rugby in Bloom competition as usual this year, the application may have to be withdrawn.

This is because no maintenance has been carried out during the last year and there is a lot of wild growth. However, that is a decision for another day.

The group meet in the Baptist Chapel on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm, please come and meet the team, for more information, ring Cllr Ruth Buswell on 01455 221324.



## 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.**



## Village Defibrillators Set to Save Lives

Early intervention while awaiting the arrival of emergency services can significantly improve the chances of someone surviving a heart attack. This is why the Parish Council is arranging for two public access defibrillators to be available in the village for emergency use by the general public.

A locked cabinet holding a defibrillator is to be located at the Village Hall. It is planned to place the other one in the school. Both cabinets will be accessible 24/7. They can be opened using a number code which is provided by the ambulance service when an emergency call is made. The defibrillators are portable and can be taken to where they are needed.

The defibrillators are designed to be operated by any person and the machine gives instructions to the operator when activated. When placed in contact with the

patient the defibrillator takes readings and determines whether to issue an electrical shock. This takes the decision making out of the hands of the untrained operator. However, the more familiar and confident the operator is with the equipment the quicker the equipment can be activated and used.



**Training on the use of these defibrillators will be arranged by the Council.**

## Council in Twittersphere

Wolvey Parish Council continually looks at how it can improve communication with local residents and recently turned its attention to making better use of social media. As part of this, the Council now has a Twitter account.



Therefore, anyone who uses Twitter can now follow **@WolveyPC** for the Council's latest news and information.

## Appeal for Nepal

Following the appalling news of the Nepalese earthquakes, Wolvey Parish Council placed a collection box (by kind permission) in the Post Office which raised £85.00. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection.

It was also decided that the Parish Council would add £65.00 from the Grants and Donations budget to make a total of £150. This will contribute to the rescue operation and the rebuilding of the devastated area that is home to the families of many of our neighbours at Bramcote Barracks.

Accordingly, a cheque was sent to the DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal and the generosity of Wolvey residents was reported to staff at Bramcote Barracks.



## Superfast Service by 2016



Wolvey's broadband speed is to be upgraded during 2016. CSW Broadband, the project tasked with delivering superfast broadband to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire areas, has produced a delivery plan giving an indication as

to when each village can expect to be upgraded to receive broadband speeds of up to 24Mbps. The current plan is that Wolvey will be converted sometime around the middle of 2016.

**For further information visit: [cswbroadband.org.uk](http://cswbroadband.org.uk) or [facebook.co/CSWSuperfastBroadband](https://www.facebook.com/CSWSuperfastBroadband) or [@cswbroadband](https://twitter.com/cswbroadband)**

## Youth Club Members Enjoy Challenging Times

Our recent trip to Beaumanor Hall Outdoor Activities Centre was an exciting, physically and mentally challenging evening. Activities included travelling around a 'nightline' - a roped obstacle course, wearing goggles that simulated darkness.

This meant members had to trust their sighted partners to communicate and tell them how to navigate the variety of tunnels, roped 'spider's webs', wobbly ground, hills, crawl nets etc. The trip - which was rounded off by a session on the climbing wall - was assisted by funding from the Heart of England Community Foundation.



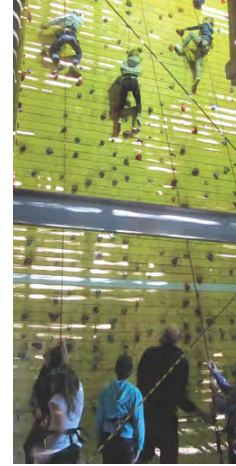
Ellis Chegwiddden (left) guiding James Ford wearing the night-simulation goggles.

Explorers have kindly invited members for a taster evening of water sports - canoeing, kayaking and rafting at 5-Ways Lakes in June. All these activities help to build young people's confidence, self-esteem and team-work.

Thanks go to new members, Jessica Robson and Freja Wiggins who did a brilliant job helping run the craft activity at the Church Open Afternoon in June. Their imaginative shadow play performances were a popular attraction. We are very fortunate to have Stuart Bates, who grew up in Wolvey, as a new volunteer, joining our adult team of Kate Jones and Steve Hoblely and young leader volunteers. Stuart brings many skills to benefit the Club, including his keen interest in sport and service in the Territorial Army.

As ever, sports and games activities remain popular at Club sessions and members have enjoyed dodge ball, badminton, table tennis and mini tennis, as well as boxing with professional coach Franco.

Membership continues to grow. The Youth Club welcomes new members (aged 11 this school year) who can just come along - usually every third Monday in the month, 7.15-9pm at the Village Hall, or contact Barbara Jones, Volunteer Club Organiser - 01455 220081, [bjones.design@virgin.net](mailto:bjones.design@virgin.net).



**Club doesn't meet in July and August due to the dates falling in school holidays so the next Youth Club is Monday, 21st September.**

Girls tackling the climbing wall from left to right - Annie Richards, Katie Haughian and Freja Wiggins. Other members working the safety ropes on the ground.

## The Wetland Boardwalk

The Council is pleased to be able to report that it has reached agreement with contractors over repairs to the Wetland boardwalk.

Repair work commenced in mid June and is being undertaken by volunteers overseen by the contractors. It is hoped that the work will be completed before the summer is out, however, this is a voluntary effort and the Council is grateful for the level of patience shown so far by interested residents. We look forward to the Wetland being fully opened for the local community to enjoy in the not too distant future.



WEG volunteers get to grips with Boardwalk repairs.

'Tread carefully' Boardwalk back in business soon.



## Neighbourhood Watching - and Waiting



The Neighbourhood Watch team in Wolvey continues to be active in promoting vigilance and awareness of crime prevention measures. However, we are still awaiting confirmation of the new system that is being implemented by Warwickshire Police.

So, until this is to hand, there will be no meeting of the group. In the meantime, as the late Shaw Taylor used to say, 'keep 'em peeled'.

## Lengthsman Scheme Impact - Views Required Please

The Parish Council is providing feedback to the County Council on the usefulness of the Lengthsman Scheme. The County Council is providing funding to operate the scheme for a two year trial period. We would like to include the views of village residents in our replies.

The Lengthsman Scheme involves carrying out minor highways works which are unlikely to be dealt with by the County Council. The work has included cutting back hedges off the highway, weed spraying of

kerbs and pathways, cleaning road gully grids, litter picking, sign cleaning and removal of fly posters.

**If you have noticed an improvement in the village maintenance and wish to comment on the value of the scheme, or suggest minor highways works which our Lengthsman can carry out, then please contact Jackie Essex, our Clerk by email to: [parishclerk@wolvey.org](mailto:parishclerk@wolvey.org) or by telephone 024 7601 6337.**



Drains before and after being cleared by Wayne our Lengthsman.



## Clerk's Corner

This is my first article for this Newsletter in my role as Clerk to Wolvey Parish Council, following Margaret Cartwright's decision to retire. I would like to thank Margaret for all her help, guidance and patience whilst I settled into my new role. I also wish to thank the Parish Councillors for their support and for making me so welcome. The past three months have been challenging as there is so much to learn and the job is certainly varied – but the work is very interesting and enjoyable.

The recent retirement of Keith Orchard and John Hardman has created the opportunity for two people to join the Parish Council. There is a separate article about this in this Newsletter but please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council now has a new Chairman - at its Annual Meeting, Councillor Andrew Dixon was elected Chairman and Councillor Ruth Buswell was re-elected Vice-Chairman for 2015/16. This means that it is a new era for the Parish Council as it has both a new Chairman and a new Clerk.

The Annual Parish meeting for residents was held on 29th April. The guest speaker was Alison Orr from Rugby Community and Voluntary Action who gave a very interesting presentation on applying for funding – providing helpful tips, hints and advice on completing applications,

together with the pitfalls to avoid. I am sure that those local groups and organisations who attended the meeting found this information very useful.

The Council has considered revisions to its policy on grants to local groups and agreed that the current practice of administering two rounds of grant applications per year be reduced to one round per year. Letters inviting applications will be sent out in June and applications will be considered as follows:

Deadline for applications:  
31 August,

Preliminary consideration of applications :  
September PC meeting,

Decision on grant applications:  
October PC meeting.

For any information about the Parish Council please contact me by email on [clerk@wolvey.org](mailto:clerk@wolvey.org) or by telephone on 024 7601 6337.

Although I do not live in Wolvey, I am not far away, but please remember I only work part-time. Please leave a message if I am not available and I will get back to you at the earliest opportunity. Also, why not follow the Parish Council on Twitter - [@WolveyPC](https://twitter.com/WolveyPC).

**Jackie Essex**  
Clerk to the Council



## Action on Plans

Progress on implementing the Wolvey Action Plan has been reviewed recently by the Council. We can report that many of the points raised by residents in the original plan have been put into place.

For example, we have implemented the Lengthsman Scheme, put on a First Aid course, looked into additional youth facilities and are now 'twittering' on Council activities. We are also currently in the process of activating the emergency defibrillators scheme, re-instating the Neighbourhood Watch, improving public transport and exploring other uses of social media.

Unfortunately, because of low demand, it has not been possible to implement the befriending buddy system or the dial a ride scheme. Likewise, the planned energy seminar has not yet taken place because there is no access to Wifi in a village community meeting place.

The Council are still considering updating streetlights to make savings and offering computer courses. So, watch this space for news on future activities.

## Cllrs Step Down

### Keith Orchard

Keith Orchard has left the Parish Council after four years as a Councillor - three of these as Chairman. The Council wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to Keith for his calm and measured contribution. Keith has been steadfast and extremely hard working. He listened to views and conducted himself and meetings in a truly democratic manner. Thank you Keith, we all wish you well for the future.

### John Hardman

John Hardman has also left the Parish Council after serving for two years. The Council thanks John for his considerable contribution to its work. John has been energetic, industrious and committed. He has shown great integrity and possesses an eye for detail that has served the Council well. Of particular note has been his leadership in the provision of defibrillators for the village and the implementation of the Lengthsman Scheme. We wish him well for the future.

## Make a Difference – be a Councillor

If you would you like to represent your local community and take part in decisions affecting where you live, why not consider applying to be co-opted onto Wolvey Parish Council?

There are a few rules about who can become a Parish Councillor, but as long as you are aged 18 years or over and live or work in the parish of Wolvey, you should be eligible to become a member of the Council.

An application form is available from our website at [www.wolvey.org](http://www.wolvey.org). For further details, or if you have any questions, please contact our Clerk – Jackie Essex at [clerk@wolvey.org](mailto:clerk@wolvey.org) or by telephone on 024 7601 6337.

**The closing date for applications is Friday 17th July, 2015.  
Interviews will be held before the PC meeting on Monday 20th July, 2015.**