

## **WOLVEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

This annual report is prepared on behalf of Wolvey Parish Council and is a synopsis of the report presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. Its aim is to provide a brief summary of some of the Parish Council's activities for the year

Parish Council meetings are held at 7.45pm, usually on the third Monday of each month in the back room of Wolvey Village Hall. Local electors are welcome to attend to make comments or express views on matters being considered by the Council.

The parish council also holds a councillor surgery on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Parish Council members are:	Ruth Buswell (Chairman)	01455 221324
	John Hawkins ( Vice-Chairman)	01455 220482
	Jon Slee	01455 220322
	Keith Orchard	01455 220688
	Roy Elliott	01455 220491
	Jen Knight	01455 220906
	Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771

Full contact details are available on the village notice board and on the Parish Council website

#### **Chairmans Report**

You may remember that I spoke to you all last year about the constant changes being forced upon us by the Coalition Government, well I could actually read the same words again and it would still be true as in some ways no progress seems to have been made.

We are at the present time fully staffed, with seven council members. Jenny Knight joined us last year and is a valued council member, BozenaKuncewicz rejoined us after retiring from her teaching post, and brings with her expertise gained from her former role as a Parish Councillor.

Of course everything could change in May, as the whole Parish Council will have to resign, due to the fact that it is **election year** for local councils. Hopefully if all of the councillors decide to stand for re-election, we can reconvene after the election without too many , if any, personnel changes.

Margaret Cartwright, in her role as Parish Clerk, continues to support councillors through the maze of new legislation with her knowledge and guidance.

After a long drawn out process involving Warwickshire County Council & the Parish Council finally a decision has been made to finance and install **two Vehicle Activated Signs** in Coventry Road and Church Hill, in an attempt to slow down speeding traffic. Ongoing maintainance costs will have to be paid by the Parish Council. Also if funding can be attained , **CCTV** will be installed to protect the village square, these two measures together designed to make Wolvey a safer place to live

You will have noticed the Bear and Staff figure in the Village Square garden, this was presented to Wolvey in November as part of the **Best Village Competition Award**, in addition to the Silver Cup over there. As **Overall Winner** we get to keep them for a year, although due to cutbacks the competition may not run again unless volunteers take on the roles currently filled by paid staff.

We were also awarded in the Rugby in Bloom Competition, an **Environmental Award** for the Wetland Reserve, making 2011 a truly successful year. So a big thankyou to everyone who helped by giving their time and effort to achieve these accolades for Wolvey Village, our Village!!

After a very successful **Christmas Tree Switch On** Event, somewhat warmer than last years, winter bedding plants were being planted in the tubs and troughs.

In January work began in earnest on the **Sixty Years of Play Project**. Village groups have spent time with the Very Idea Artists, village cohesion is happening, with separate groups interacting, gaining knowledge and friendships in the process. There will be an exhibition of the projects completed in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd June.

Secondly ,the **Jubilee Celebrations** are to consist of a Picnic in the Park to be held on Monday 4th June starting with a procession of interesting vehicles and a fancy dress parade from the square at 1.30pm, proceeding to the Playing Fields where competitions and attractions will run through the afternoon, and after a short teatime break, live music will be played to encompass five decades, from the 50's onwards, culminating in the lighting of the beacon, one of many countrywide, sometime after 10 pm.

All this information and more is on the fabulous **Wolvey Website**, which gets better and better thanks to Mr Pete Hopkins who spends hours inputting data and updating information. Also in the fantastic quarterly **Newsletter** is always interesting and informative and would not be possible without the help of Derek Warren, so thanks to both of these generous people who give up so much of their time to help us.

I am sure you all understand how much work, time and effort goes into making these events happen successfully. Despite all the government changes that are happening, your Parish Council, whose members are all unpaid volunteers ,does its best to keep your village special, safe and up to date .This is not easy but we will continue to look after your interests and wellbeing, as we have in the past.

FOOTNOTE: Since, I have written the Chairman's Report, I have learned that both Roy Elliott and Jenny Knight have chosen not to stand for re-election, so I have to thank them both for the commitment and dedication they have both given to the Parish Council in the past and to wish them all the best for the future

Ruth Buswell  
Chairman

### **Finance Report for year and regulatory procedure**

The **precept** for the year 2011-12 was **£32,000**

Other receipts amounted to £13893

Receipts during 2011-12 include:

- a) Payment from Rugby Borough Council of £1807 as the parish council has taken responsibility for cutting grass verges
- b) Best Village prize money of £300
- c) Grant for £4765 from Rugby BC for Village Hall energy upgrade
- d) £3282 VAT reclaim
- e) £3000 from Warwickshire County Council for "Sixty years of a Village at Play"

The total **expenditure** for the year was **£40,638**

During 2011-12 significant expenditure included:

- a) £4765 to improve the village Hall energy efficiency
- b) £4917 for "Sixty years of a Village at Play"

The revenue budget is the amount of money necessary for the Parish Council to carry out its statutory requirements. In other words it is the amount of money required for the Parish Council to function lawfully. This includes expenses such as insurance, internal and external auditors, fees to professional bodies who provide advice, training for the Clerk and Councillors, salaries, administration costs such as computer expenses and sundries, stationery, photocopying, phone calls, travel expenses, etc. and the cost of the parish council website and newsletter.

The total of the **revenue budget** for the year was £8765

The **street lights** in Wolvey are owned and maintained by Wolvey Parish Council. The costs of electricity, maintenance and upgrading of streetlights accounted for £6466

The parish council also takes responsibility for **cutting the grass verges** in and around the village and to remove weeds from the roadside gullies. To avoid double taxation of Wolvey residents, funds are obtained from Rugby BC to offset the costs involved. The overall annual cost for 2011 was £2800 and the amount received from Rugby BC and Warwickshire CC was £1807. As a result, the amount remaining to be paid by the parish council was only **£993**.

A total of **£6700** was given as **donations/ grants** to organisations within the parish and to charities.

These included:

£500 to the Air Ambulance

£50 to Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau

£300 each to the Wolvey Scouts & Brownies

£450 to Over 60's group

£2000 to Wolvey Church

£500 to the Millennium Building

£1000 to Baptist Chapel

£1500 to Village Hall and

£2000 to the Playing Fields to assist with their ongoing maintenance costs

The Council's annual accounts are made available for public inspection and submitted for internal and external audit, within the timescale and requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003. The Audit Commission appointed Clement Keys as the external auditor for this year.

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, Clement Keys verified and endorsed the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance and provided a signed audit certificate and opinion. These documents were published on the village notice board and the parish council website.

Proper governance of the budget is maintained throughout the year to ensure work is managed effectively. Costs are kept to a minimum and reserves are within recommended parameters.

The total cash and investments increased slightly to £43266. This is because additional funds have been allocated to earmarked reserves for future projects. This includes Sixty Years of a Village at Play, traffic calming measures, installation of CCTV, and an upgrade of streetlighting when appropriate.

Report prepared by Margaret Cartwright  
Responsible Financial Officer to Wolvey Parish Council  
25 April, 2012