

WOLVEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

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 16th April, 2014. 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 order to accommodate the Youth Club the venue for Parish Council meetings varies. Meetings from April to September are held in the Wolvey Baptist Chapel, October to March are held in Wolvey Bowling Club.

Local electors are welcome to attend to make comments or express views on matters being considered by the Council. Information about Parish Council meetings are available on the Village noticeboard and the Parish Council website, www.wolvey.org.

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:

Keith Orchard (Chairman)	01455 220688
Ruth Buswell (Vice-Chairman)	01455 221324
Andrew Dixon	01455 220771
Bozena Kunczewicz	01455 220771
Clare Nixon	01455 220639
John Hardman	01455 220252
Dee Kenrick	01445 221782

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

Chairman's Report

Firstly I would like to thank members of the Parish Council for their efforts and support over the last year. Also thanks to our Clerk Margaret Cartwright who is also our Responsible Financial Officer. Also, in our activities throughout the year we rely on support from many people and organisations. On behalf of the Council I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their help and support.

The Council membership has been at full strength for most of the year with the recruitment of two new councillors, Dee Kenrick and John Hardman, who have brought with them a range of skills and experience which complimented the existing members.

A review of the year

After all the activity in 2012/2013, 2013/14 has been a year of consolidation. Councillor training is a major commitment by Councillors, particularly in this time of 'localism' and other initiatives. To that end all your Councillors have been on many training courses, during the last 12 months. These courses are usually held on Saturdays or evenings.

The newly founded Youth Club has continued to be a major activity provided for the young people in the village. They are increasingly self-organised with the appointment of a Management committee. The Council managed to secure funding for this activity from Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council, via the Central Villages LEADER project.

Traffic speed continues to be a problem. Three Vehicle Activated signs have been installed and we are hopeful the Police will begin regular speed monitoring on Church Hill in the near future.

The footbridge on a footpath known as R12 was condemned as unsafe last year which caused major inconvenience. It is good news that this footpath is due to be restored with the building of a new wooden footbridge for pedestrians only.

Streetlights in the Village are largely owned by the Parish Council, 98 in total. Some are in need of replacement, particularly the concrete ones. The council has begun to progressively replace the ones which are in poor condition. However this is going to be a major expense so the Parish Council is currently doing a full survey of the street lights noting the condition of each to establish a work plan.

In September / October we commissioned a Housing Needs Survey, looking at local housing needs. The conclusion was that Wolvey needed 1 affordable home and 2 open market homes. This came as a bit of a surprise as we had expected rather more of a demand.

Looking more generally at houses in the village we have seen a large number of new houses built or started in the last 12 months. In line with this your Council has produced a Welcome Pack for new residents.

Neighbourhood Watch is still an area where we can improve as we do not currently have a co-coordinator for Wolvey. This is a subject where we need some local help with, if there is anyone interested in this subject and feels they can help please advise details to the Clerk.

Wolvey has always done well in Awards competitions. In the Rugby in Bloom competition we were awarded Silver for the Village Square in the Community Category along with Gold for the Wetland in the Environmental Category and Overall Winner for 2013. Well done everyone who played a part, particularly members of the Wolvey Environmental Group. Also thanks to the WEG group for the wonderful display of spring bulbs on Temple Hill. They provide a real splash of colour for us all.

The Christmas tree light turn on was again a great success with even more people attending than ever before. This year the lights turn-on was performed by the Mayor of Rugby, Councillor Tony Gillias who attended with the Mayoress. The event was as usual a great success and went with a bit of a bang with the unscripted firing of some rockets. The sum of £200 was received as a donation to Help for Heroes.

The village has established a working group to co-ordinate how Wolvey will remember the outbreak of WW1, it is currently planning activities on the weekend of 2nd August to 4th August. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that this event is not organised by the Parish Council but rather a public event organised by volunteers which the Parish Council is supporting.

Members of the Parish Council are currently discussing the production of a Wolvey Action Plan. This will help to determine the Council's priorities for Wolvey in the next few years.

The current term of office for the Parish Council ends in May,

when the whole Council must resign and an Election will be held to form a new Council. Wolvey Parish Council is made up of seven members or Councillors. In order for the Parish Council to be eligible for Quality Parish Council status and to use the "General Power of Competence", it is vital that all seven seats are filled in May.

Keith Orchard

Chairman

Finance Report for year and regulatory procedure.

The precept for the year 2013-14 was £33,920

Other receipts amounted to £17128

Receipts during 2013-14 include:

- a) Payment from Rugby Borough Council of £1807 as the parish council has taken responsibility for cutting grass verges
- b) £1000 from Rugby BC and an additional £1000 from Central Warwickshire Villages LEADER for the new youth club
- c) Grant from Rugby Borough Council for £10,042 towards costs of new equipment at Wolvey Playing Fields
- d) Donations received amounted to £712 for Christmas tree and Wolvey Wetland Reserve
- e) Early payment of £17500 precept for 2014-15 received in this financial year.

During 2013-14 significant expenditure included:

- a) £2638 to set up the new Youth Club
- b) £1076 for the Christmas tree and lights switch-on (although £529 of this was offset by donations from residents)
- c) £951 was paid to enhance the environment with hanging baskets & planters and to maintain the Wetland.
- d) £723 for the Parish Council newsletter and website

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 revenue budget for 2013-14 was £11806.

The street lights in Wolvey are owned and maintained by Wolvey Parish Council.

The costs of electricity, maintenance and upgrading of streetlights accounted for £7380.

The Parish Council also takes responsibility for cutting the grass verges in and around the village, removing weeds from the roadside gullies and cleaning of two bus shelters.. To avoid double taxation of Wolvey residents, funds are obtained from Rugby BC to offset the costs involved. The overall annual cost for 2013 was £2545 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 £738.

A total of £6632 was given as donations/ grants to organisations within the parish and to charities:

£500 to the Air Ambulance

£75 to Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau

£50 to Vitalise

£300 to Wolvey Brownies

£450 to Over 60's group

£360 to Wolvey Junior Cricket Club

£2000 to Wolvey Church

£650 to Baptist Chapel

£247 to Village Hall

£2000 to Wolvey Playing Fields Trust

An additional £2750 was paid to Wolvey Playing Fields Trust as the surplus from the grant for new equipment awarded to the Parish Council by Rugby Borough Council.

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 Grant Thornton as the external auditor for this year.

For the year ended 31st March 2013, Grant Thornton 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 at year end were £72753. This is because funds have been allocated to earmarked reserves for future projects. This includes the continued upgrade of streetlighting when appropriate, particularly some older concrete columns and replacement of lanterns to new energy efficient LED lighting. This sum also included £17500 which is the first payment of the precept for 2014-15.

Report prepared by Margaret Cartwright MILCM

Responsible Financial Officer to Wolvey Parish Council