

Wolvey Parish Council

Annual Report 2014-2015

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 29th April, 2015. 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.

Parish Council members are:

Keith Orchard (Chairman) 01455 220688

Ruth Buswell (Vice-Chairman) 01455 221324

Andrew Dixon 01455 220771

Bozena Kuncewicz 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

With us this evening are all the current Parish Councilors it is pleasing that we have a full complement of 7 councilors and have had no changes at all in the past year.

I would like to thank the whole team for the support each has given to me and the very enthusiastic and professional way they have approached each task they have been presented with.

Included in the Parish Council team is of course the Parish Clerk Margaret Cartwright

The Parish Council would like to express its grateful thanks to Margaret 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 many other attributes.

We wish her the very best for her retirement and hope that she will continue to enjoy good health and happiness.

We have appointed a new Parish Clerk Jackie Essex, who lives in, Barnacle please join with me in welcoming her to her new role, and to wish her every success as the Wolvey Clerk

Looking back at some of the last years activities I am pleased to report progress in several areas

The highlight of the year was the way the whole village, groups and people joined together to make the WW1 Remembrance activities a weekend of real nostalgia and enjoyment whilst remembering those servicemen who lost their lives. The parade through the village led by Drummers and Piper from Bramcote Barracks, followed by the Cubs and Scouts was a fitting conclusion to the Weekend of activities.

I would like to thank every one who helped make it a success with particular thanks to the Wolvey History group.

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Christmas tree lights turn on

The Christmas tree lights switch on was as usual, a great success, possibly a record number of people attended. New for this year's event was the introduction of a bran tub from which the children each pulled out a gift, it seemed to be a real winner.

Needs and wants survey

In June we undertook a survey of villagers 'needs and wants' this was to help us understand where we needed to direct the councils efforts. This led to the formation of an "Action Plan" to review certain activities with the sole purpose of trying to bring about improvements to village life. This has got underway with many aspects of the plan being worked on.

First out of the blocks has been the Council organised and subsidized First Aid course, the first of which has been successfully completed. The feedback was very good and further courses are being organised

Continuing the Medical theme

Defibrillators

Two public access defibrillators have been ordered and are to be located outside the Village Hall and the School. The Parish Council has made funding available to purchase the defibrillators. Assistance in their purchase has been given by grants from County Councillor Morris Jones and the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Formal training will be available although the defibrillators can be used without training as the machines will give instructions to a person giving first aid. Details on how to access the defibrillators and how they can be used will be available in the next edition of the Parish Council Newsletter.

Lengthsman Scheme

Wolvey Parish Council is one of six Parish Councils in the Rugby Borough area participating in a 2 year trial of the Lengthsman Scheme. The funding for the trial has been made available by the County Council. The scheme places some minor Highways activities under the control of the Parish Council and is designed to improve the service delivery and frequency of the

devolved activities. This will reduce hazards and contribute to maintaining the appearance of the village.

Transport

Bus service

We have had discussions with Aviva and WCC about improving the Bus service. The connection to Hinckley and Burbage seems to hold possibilities; we expect some feedback from WCC shortly

Dial-a-ride

We have been in discussion Hinckley and Bosworth community transport about their dial –a- ride service but our feed back was poor so that made no progress. However a couple of groups in the village have made use of their Community Bus Service, we hope others will follow

Neighborhood Watch Scheme

The village neighborhood watch has been largely defunct during the last couple of years. However this year there has been some time spent in understanding how best to re-launch it. A meeting has been held between our CPSO and an implementation plan established. However. prior to re-launch there are some changes in the Neighborhood scheme administration we have to understand and accommodate

We believe it will be up and running for the summer

Boardwalk

As you will know doubt be aware the board walk at the wetlands has been closed since last August due to some structural problems that have developed. We are working with the supplier to resolve this and anticipate the facility will be reopened this summer.

Communications

We as Council work very hard at communicating with the community;-

- Monthly Council meeting, although speaking is restricted as this is a meeting of the Council not the public
- Annual Parish Meeting
- Quarterly news letter
- Notice boards

- Council web site
- Accessibility to the Clerk and Councilors by e mail
- Welcome pack for new residents

We are always looking to improve our communications and would welcome any suggestions to improve. We are going to investigate the use of social media, eg Twitter and Facebook, any thoughts on how we could improve would be welcome

Wind farm

In June we became aware of the possibility of a Wind Farm being established In Wolvey. Responding to requests to the Council, a village meeting was duly called, which a large body of people attended, It was decided after discussion to oppose any application made for a wind farm.

In order to most effectively take on any challenges, should they occur, the Parish Council has retained the services of a professional Town planner. So far we have used this resource only once when opposing the planning application for a metrological mast. We have had no further information about this plan since the planning request for the metrological mast was granted

GRANTS

The last thing that I would like to address is an update on Wolvey PC "Grants", in the next Financial year, our spend for grants will be reduced due to financial pressures. Groups within the village need to be aware of Grants that are offered from other organisation. They may offer a way forward to apply for a grant when a need arises. The Parish Council will help were needed by offering advice on how to access funding from these sources.

To help further on this subject tonight we have a short presentation from Alison Orr Rugby Locality Manager for WCAVA , who I know will be happy to take your questions on this subject.

Keith Orchard
29-04-15