



**Stottesdon and Sidbury  
Parish Council**

*Annual Parish Meeting*

*Monday 16th April 2012*

*Chorley Village Hall*

*7.30pm*

**Speakers will be:**

**Chris Edwards - Shropshire Council  
Area Director South  
Graham Downes - Shropshire Council  
Highways Manager**

**Local organisations will also give their  
annual reports.**

**This is the meeting for parishioners and your  
opportunity to come along and give us your  
views.**

**Newsletter  
Spring 2012**

*Dear Parishioners*

This time last year it was not my intention to continue as chairman but circumstances proved otherwise. It has been a time when many changes are being made by government and with the Localism Act now in being it would appear that some powers could be transferred downwards to the Parish Council from Shropshire Council. This is still being examined. We have been heavily involved in exercises to define future development in the county and in order to ensure that our input is as widely representative as possible we have been preparing a new Parish Plan. This has already thrown up some fairly major projects that will need time and resources to satisfy. They include retention of the village shop, adaption of the Playgroup area to better meet regulations and the inadequacy of the school (and community) sports facilities mentioned in an otherwise excellent OFSTED report. We are making progress on these and thanks are due to the various working parties involved.

For the last two years we have been able to keep the precept virtually frozen but we have now unfortunately reached the stage when increasing costs over a wide area must be covered if the council is to function effectively and not be reduced to a mere talking shop. As an example Shropshire Council will no longer provide the Parish Council with free IT support, printer ink and paper. This will have a marked effect on the cost of newsletters quite apart from day to day working in a localism age. The Playgroup has been mentioned above and support for this has been provided in the precept. There will be elections in 2013 and we have a duty to set aside money for these. Insurance costs have risen and councillors are obliged to continue to attend training although we make maximum use of 'free' training events in order to minimise costs. The council makes grants towards the maintenance of our churchyards, for children to attend the Crucial Crew event, to CAB, Severn Hospice, Severn Centre, Nightingale Nursing and the Cleobury Youth project all of which are in the interests of the community. Some alarm has been expressed at the figure of 19% Parish increase referred to in the breakdown of charges on Council Tax demands. Like most percentage figures this is misleading and takes no account of the very small proportion that the parish precept contributes to the overall Council Tax bill. In real financial terms this is rather less significant - see chart below. We recognise that any increase is regrettable in the current climate but feel that this is hardly exorbitant to ensure an effective council working in everyone's interest. The small amount of money raised in this way is carefully calculated to meet local needs in the most effective way.

With regards to the overall work of the Council yet again we owe a great debt of gratitude to our Clerk Freda Morris for her untiring work extending well beyond the hours that she is paid for – which she has now been doing for 26 years! I am also grateful to my fellow councillors for their support and wide expertise. It is gratifying that we were able to co-opt three new councillors over the year. We still have one vacancy and next year we will all be up for re-election so do please consider putting yourself forward. *Brian Hamilton-Russell - Parish Council Chairman*

Band	2011/12	2012/13	Increase this year on council tax bills
A	£981.92	£989.85	£7.93
B	£1145.57	£1154.81	£9.24
C	£1309.23	£1319.80	£10.57
D	£1472.88	£1484.77	£11.89
E	£1800.19	£1814.73	£14.54
F	£2127.49	£2144.67	£17.18
G	£2454.80	£2474.62	£19.82
H	£2945.76	£2969.54	£23.78

**Speakers at the Annual Parish meeting:**

Shropshire Council's Chris Edwards, Area Director South and Graham Downes, Highways Manager based at Bridgnorth have agreed to attend the Annual Parish meeting to give a brief presentation on highways/drainage/trees in our parish.

Please come along and listen to what they have to say - you will also be given an opportunity to ask questions.

**Roads:**

We continue to chase Shropshire Council for repairs to the roads but the next financial year the Highways budget is once again being cut. Please contact the Clerk or Councillor if you are aware of any dangerous potholes/highway problems and these will be passed to the Shropshire Council.

We are grateful to Graham Downes and Andy Oliver at Bridgnorth Highways who look after our area for the work already carried out. We know that work is also planned in the Parish during the next financial year.

The Parish Council receive numerous complaints regarding mud on the road. We do appreciate that we are a rural farming community but mud is dangerous and can cause accidents if vehicles skid on this. All complaints are passed onto the Police to investigate.

**Dog fouling:**

We have again received complaints of dogs fouling the footpaths and road side verges especially on the Harcourt road and at Sidbury. PLEASE can we ask all dog owners to be responsible and clean up after their dogs. It is not very pleasant if you have to step onto the verge and step into dog mess.

**Speeding/Parking issues:**

Can we PLEASE remind everyone once again to drive with care through the Parish and ask that extra care is taken by the school. There are so many children attending the school/playgroup and we are concerned for the safety of the children and other road users. Please do not block the pavements or park in the BUS STOP as this restricts the view for vehicles exiting Glebe Drive. The parking bays, lay by and Glebe Drive can be used whilst dropping off and collecting children from School and Playgroup but can we remind you not to block the drive or residents drives/gateways.

Can we also ask parents to remind children of the dangers on our narrow roads, in particular when riding their bikes and scooters.

**Thanks!**

Many thanks to Matt Home and his team from Willowdene for clearing and gritting the footpaths during the snow/ice. We have been lucky this year as the winter was not as severe as last year but please let us know before next winter where salt/grit is required. It has been noted that the grit bin at Rays Farm bridge has 'disappeared' - does anyone know where it went?

We are aware that the new surface at the entrance to Glebe Drive and the new parking bays caused problems in the icy conditions but hopefully this will be sorted before next winter.

**Chorley Family Playgroup:**

The children of Chorley Family Playgroup took part in World Book Day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK, Ireland and Europe, where children are encouraged to read more and are helped by some of the world's greatest children's authors.

To mark this wonderful day, the children of the playgroup dressed up as characters from some of the most popular children's books and spent the day enjoying some of their favourite stories.

**Stottesdon and Cleobury Mortimer Hospice Support Group:**

A concert with the Severn Singers will be held on Friday 20th April 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall. The singers will entertain with a wide variety of songs and a Posh Ploughman's and bottle bar will be available.

Tickets are £10 each inc Ploughman's and are available from the Hospice Shop in Cleobury Mortimer. Extra car parking will be available at the Catholic Church.

**SHI\*FEST:**

The popular SHI\*FEST Music Festival will be back with us again on Sunday May 5th at Hopton Court, Hopton Wafers. A wide range of entertainment from One O'Clock Hogs to Angle Grinder Girls. Free camping and parking available.

Tickets £20 available from Cleobury News Shop or [www.shi\\*fest.co.uk](http://www.shi*fest.co.uk)

**Parish Plan Update:**

In the January newsletter, we reported on the priorities that had come out of the survey we conducted and asked for your comments.

Since then, the Parish Plan group has been putting together an action plan so that we can aim to achieve the improvements you want to see.

A draft summary of the new Parish Plan will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 April. This will be your opportunity to make any final comments, before the Plan is formally adopted by the Parish Council.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to see the draft document, please contact Freda Morris and ask for a copy.

Once the Plan has been finalised, the Parish Plan group will be meeting to coordinate the work and make sure we do whatever we can to make our community a better place to live, work and enjoy.

If you'd like to help with this, please come to a meeting of the group. Details from Freda or check the notice board.

**Stottesdon & Sidbury Church News:**

Happy Easter to everyone. A warm welcome awaits you at both of our churches. Stottesdon services are every Sunday at 10:30am and Sidbury services are at 4pm on the third Sunday in every month (The April service is a week earlier and at 8am to celebrate Easter). We'd love to have you come and support us and help keep these vital hubs of community alive in our villages.

St Mary's, Stottesdon is holding its annual meeting on Tuesday 24th April at 7:30pm in the Fighting Cocks. At this meeting we need to appoint two churchwardens from the community. Without churchwardens our Church could face closure so please consider whether this is something you could do. The role is extremely rewarding and can be great fun at times too. More information from the Vicar (Colin Resch - 01746 718297).

There are also some fundraising events coming up to which you are all invited. At St Mary's there will be a coffee morning on Saturday 28th April starting at 10am. The Sidbury Fete will take place at Sidbury Hall on Saturday 12th May beginning at the slightly earlier time of 6pm. It's slightly further away but on Friday 29th June there will be our annual fun sports, mile race and community barbecue on the Stottesdon School Field starting at 7pm.

And finally, on a personal note, Liz and I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to you all to join us any Friday morning (10am-12noon) for coffee and cake at the Rectory. No charge, no fundraising, no Bible-bashing. That's a promise.

With every blessing, Colin Resch.

**'Live the Adventure' Open Day, at the Old Vicarage Adventure Centre, Ginny Hole, Stottesdon, raising money for the Riding for the Disabled Association, Sunday 13th May 2012**

This free event will be held at Ginny Hole, Stottesdon, from 11 am - 4pm. Events taking place include taster activity sessions, such as climbing, pony riding, leap of faith, archery, playboat demos on the lake, talks illustrating trips organised to some amazing places like Bhutan and the Grand Canyon, and a talk and display by a Riding for the Disabled (RDA) rider showcasing their skills having overcome disability - this will be an amazing display! Donations can be made on the day to the Riding for the Disabled Association. The event is free but, to ensure the day runs smoothly, please register your interest via our website [www.ovac.co.uk](http://www.ovac.co.uk) click on OVAC Adventure Centre and follow links to the Open Day, or contact us by phone on 01746 718 436.

**HSE Emergency First Aider in the Workplace (EFAW) & HSE Emergency First Aid in the Outdoors training.**

For dates and details please visit our website [www.ovac.co.uk](http://www.ovac.co.uk) click on OVAC Adventure Centre, Courses & Training and First Aid Training courses.

**Children's' Activity Days and Adventure Camps**

Taking place throughout half terms and summer holidays. For more information please visit our website [www.ovac.co.uk/prices/adventure-camps-and-days.html](http://www.ovac.co.uk/prices/adventure-camps-and-days.html) or call us on 01746 718 436.

**Olympic Torch:**

May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2.47pm a very exciting event will take place in Cleobury Mortimer. The 2012 Olympic Torch will be run through the Town. The organising Committee hope to bring all the Primary School Children who feed into Lacon Childe School, into the Town. A mini Olympics' and entertainment is being arranged on the School and Town playing fields, with the children bringing a packed lunch for a picnic before we bring them into the centre for the run through.

I would be grateful if there is anyone who could give some time on the day to act as Marshals, training will be given and if anyone is interested please contact me and I will send you the form to register your interest.

Many thanks for your support - Madge Shingleton 01299 271186.

**Nightingale Nursing Fund**

Charity Football Matches: There will be Junior and Senior tournaments on May 12th at the Cleobury Mortimer football pitches. Also during the evening there will be a raffle and auction. Profit from this event will be shared with the Air Ambulance.

The annual **5-a-side football fun day** is being held on 10th June, again at Cleobury Mortimer. Any team wishing to compete can get an entry form from Carl Brookes at the Sports Centre – 01299 271317 or contact any of the boys football team managers.

We are always looking for extra help so if anyone is able to spare an hour please contact Rosemary Abbiss 01746 718210

**Chorley Village Hall Supporters Club presents:**

Thursday 19th April at 7.30pm - Submarine', cert 15.

Thursday 17th May at 7.30pm - My week with Marilyn, cert 15

Thursday 14th June at 7.30pm - Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, cert 15

Thursday 12th July at 7.30pm - Jane Eyre (2012), cert 12

Autumn films include: The Iron Lady, The Help, The Artist, Hugo etc.

Membership for 12 months is just £5 per adult/£2 for under 16s with free entry to all films.

Contact Joe or Richard Bubb on 718693 or [joe@phoenix-cottage.co.uk](mailto:joe@phoenix-cottage.co.uk)

**SHOW CALLS "TIMEOUT" FOR 2012:**

With the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the London Olympics fast approaching, this summer is set to be a busy, action-packed time for everyone – and that includes the small band of volunteers who usually put on the Chorley Show each August. So the Show is taking a well-earned break this year, and we will be back next year, with a spectacular Chorley Show on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

**DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS!!**

to The Fighting Cocks for winning the prestigious "Pub of the Year" award for the CAMRA Telford and East Shropshire area – hot on the heels of presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Alzheimers Research, the money raised at the Village Fireworks and Quiz Nights over the last year. Well done, Sandra and Malcolm.

**LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF STOTTESDON VILLAGE SHOP:**

As you probably know, public meetings were held to discuss the future of the Stottesdon shop as a result of Sandra Jeffries' wish that the shop continues to run, under community ownership, once she steps down from the shop (for personal and health reasons) this summer.

To safeguard the future in this way, a 'not-for-profit' social enterprise called "Stottesdon Community Shop Limited" has been set up and registered. "StottyShop" as it will be known plans to take on the service once volunteers are recruited and the shop lease and other transfer arrangements are finalised. Any future trading surpluses ('profits') will be re-invested in the shop, or other local community projects.

The Community Shop model means that StottyShop can plan to operate a viable business in the months ahead with a mix of paid staff (as now) and a pool of local volunteers who will be trained to serve in the shop or to work 'behind the scenes'. Using volunteers should allow the shop to open for more hours, and could enable it to carry bigger product choices (such as a bulk purchase scheme for dry groceries).

So, recruiting and training willing volunteers is the current priority for the small team who are the StottyShop Management Committee. Team members will shortly be visiting as many local households as possible to give everyone the chance to ask questions about StottyShop – and to volunteer to help – as well as to hear your suggestions about the opening times you would like to see and about any product lines you think could be stocked in future. It is your shop – and this is your chance to have a say in it!

Your suggestions and any offers of help will be recorded by the team on a questionnaire, and if you don't get a personal visit and would like to have your say, then please get in touch with Miranda on 718105 or Clare on 718007 - a visit or a copy of the questionnaire will be arranged for you as appropriate.

**Stottesdon & District WI Quarterly Report:**

We have had a very positive start to 2012, with a strong increase in members – 17 to date, with at least one more in the pipe line. Finances were also boosted by last year's fund raising efforts. Meetings this Spring have been varied as ever, with diverse themes and local speakers on topics including 'Sustainability' and 'Dog psychology'. Plans are well underway for our Burwarton Show entry, with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in mind. Meanwhile, all are welcome to attend our Open meeting next month when we welcome Alf Jenkins on 'Clee Hill: an Industrial Heritage'.

**Maths and English Tuition:**

This is based on the UK school curriculum, suitable for all ages and abilities from pre-school to teens. Work tailored to individual's needs and abilities. For further information please contact Mrs Natalie Casswell on 01746 718786 or 07788257913.

Copy of the statement of accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 as audited by Mazars LLP

	<u>Year ending 31/3/10</u>	<u>Year ending 31/3/11</u>
	£	£
<b>1. Balances brought f/wd</b>	<b>10405</b>	<b>11177</b>
<b>2.(+) Annual precept</b>	<b>14390</b>	<b>14340</b>
<b>3.(+) Total other receipts</b>	<b>3294</b>	<b>3669</b>
<b>4. (-) Staff costs including employment expenses</b>	<b>8164</b>	<b>10460</b>
<b>5. (-) Loan interest/capital Repayments</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>988</b>
<b>6. (-) Total other payments</b>	<b>7760</b>	<b>4050</b>
<b>7. (=) Balances carried forward</b>	<b>11177</b>	<b>13688</b>
<b>8. Total cash and short term Investments</b>	<b>11177</b>	<b>13688</b>
<b>9. Total fixed assets and long Term assets</b>	<b>1698</b>	<b>1628</b>
<b>10. Total borrowings</b>	<b>7341</b>	<b>6654</b>
<b>11. Trust funds disclosure note</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

These accounts were signed off by the Auditor on 17th August 2011 with no queries raised. The Parish Council are once again indebted to Mrs Val Hill for carrying out the internal audit.

**GARDEN OPEN WEEKEND - JULY 14-15:**

This year we have chosen the dates to avoid clashing with the Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Games. The gardens are open from 11 am to 6 pm, a longer day than before, but this year we have gardens open in Chorley and we wish to enable the visitors to see as many as possible. Refreshments will be available at both St Mary's Church and Chorley Village Hall. We need help as always with refreshments and parking, so please contact me if you are able to volunteer.

This year, we are having a planted container competition with an Olympic theme. Details about this will be sent around the village at the end of April.

For those new to the area, the village gardens have been opening every 2 years since 1987 for the National Garden Scheme, which raises money for Macmillan Nurses, various cancer related charities, Crossroads Care and Perennial, a charity that helps horticulturists.

This is a lively weekend for the village and I hope that with good parking arrangements, there should be no disruption for those not involved. Garden visitors are not noisy or untidy - I have seen one pick up a discarded apple core.

Tina King - 718543.

**Next newsletter:**

The deadline for the next newsletter is 12 noon July 1st 2012. Please keep articles to a maximum of 200 words due to space. Any lengthy articles will be reduced and any received after the deadline will not be included. If possible please email articles to the Clerk as early as possible.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  
CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk can be contacted at all reasonable hours.

Mrs F Morris  
18 Glebe Drive  
Stottesdon  
Kidderminster  
DY14 8UF  
Telephone number: 718453 (answer phone available)  
Email - stottesdonpc@btinternet.com  
Website: www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc



**PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

Mrs R Abbiss	718210	Mr B Hamilton-Russell	718577
Mrs M Shineton	01299 271186	Mrs D Walsh	718527
Mrs A Parsons	718047	Mrs H Barratt	718230
Mr T Casswell	718786	Mrs S Steed	787282
Mr R Bunn	718068		

**SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS:**

Madge Shineton	01299 271186
Gwilym Butler	01584 890458

Stottesdon School	718617
Chorley Family Playgroup	718769
Stottesdon/Sidbury Church	718297 Rev Colin Resch
Chorley Village Hall	0700585 50014 (bookings)
Doctors	712672
District Nurses	711963
Shropshire County Council	0345 678 9000 (general enquiries)
Lacon Childe School	01299 270312
Bridgnorth Endowed School	762103
Social Car (Jenny Howes)	718675
WI (Stef Bryan)	718018
Power Loss Helpline	08457 331331
Mobile Library	01584 813600
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Rural Stress Network	08450948286
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Shropshire Rural Housing	01743 874848
Severn Trent Water (Emergencies)	0800 7834444
Duck Inn	718267
Fighting Cocks	718270
Shropshire Registration Service	0845 6789016
Police	0300 333 3000 or 101 for non emergency calls
AB Taxis (Cleobury Mortimer)	07876554911
Chorley Village Hall Supporters Club	718693 - Joe and Richard Bubb
<b>Tree Wardens:</b>	
Wade Muggleton (Stottesdon)	718753
Nathan Home (Chorley)	07966365157

*Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council cannot accept liability for any inaccuracies or omissions in this publication. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council. Larger print format of this newsletter is available from the Clerk.*