

Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council



Newsletter
Spring 2010



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:

The last year has been one of major change with the advent of Shropshire unitary Council. There have been the inevitable teething problems but things are now settling down. Many feared that Shirehall would be remote and isolated from local parish councils but so far this has not proved to be the case. The new area planning committee appears to be much more representative than the old district council. More important has been the establishment of Local Joint Committees (LJC) which not only have devolved funds to support local initiatives but also the ability to call Council services to account where they may be failing local communities. Your parish council is represented by Diane Newsham who has a vote. Meetings are local, well advertised and open to all.

We have built on our progress last year to Quality Council status and have now adopted the new 'Power of Well Being'. This empowers us to take on almost any project to benefit our area and those who live in it. This was only possible as a Quality Council and involved further qualification for our clerk and training for councillors as a whole. We are one of only 6 councils in the county to have achieved this.

A highlight of last summer was the occupation and official opening of the six new affordable homes at The Meers in Chorley. At one stage building was complete but we faced an 18 month delay in the connection of electricity. This bureaucratic delay was demolished almost singlehandedly by Freda our Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council and Shropshire Rural Housing Association.

Another change has been the operation of the Lengthsman Scheme. Under this the county pays parish councils to carry out minor upkeep of public roads, keeping drains clear, litter clearance – you name it. For several years this worked well with each councillor having an area of responsibility. However the steady change to an almost entirely female council necessitated a review. We are very grateful to Willowdene who have now taken on responsibility for the whole parish. They amply proved their worth in the snow and ice last winter.

In the current financial climate we are acutely aware that our precept is your money. For the coming year we have kept the precept just below that for last year and this means that Council Tax for a Band D property in this parish is below the County average.

If you have a problem, or a good idea, do please talk to one of your Councillors or the Clerk or come to one of our meetings. Public Participation is at the beginning so you can make your point without having to sit through the rest as we do! Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for the friendly and cooperative way in which we do things. However little would be possible without our 'jewel in the crown' Freda Morris who must be one of the best qualified and experienced clerks locally and gets things done in a way that few others could.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at the **Old Vicarage Adventure Centre on Monday 19th April 2010 at 7.30pm** when Anthony Eddies-Davies will give a presentation on the facilities available 'on our doorstep'. Emma-Jane Ellison, Emergency Planning Officer from Shropshire Council will also give a short presentation regarding the work of the Emergency Planning Department and how it acts in the event of emergencies.

Please come along - this is the meeting for parishioners!

Brian Hamilton-Russell - Chairman

Garden Open Day 2010

The Biennial Garden Open Day is coming around again and will take place on the weekend of June 12th and 13th 2010. A number of gardens - so far we have 14- will be open as part of the National Gardens Scheme which supports a number of causes, including Nursing and cancer charities, Crossroads, and the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society. Some of the proceeds will be donated to the village school, and the teas are provided by and for St Mary's Church. The opening hours are between 12 noon and 6pm.

If anyone would like to be involved, volunteers are wanted for a number of tasks. Please also let us know of any garden which you feel should be open - any size is welcome.

Car parking is provided and it is hoped that we will have enough marshals to prevent anyone being inconvenienced by the extra traffic. Garden visitors tend to be polite, quiet and very tidy. Please contact me if you have any concerns - Tina King 718543.

Riding for the Disabled:

Are you interested in Riding for the Disabled? Interested perhaps because you or someone in your family or circle of friends has a physical or learning disability and may benefit from horse riding? Interested in joining the organisation of the charity? Interested in becoming a hands-on volunteer?

In conjunction with the national RDA charity, a local group is being formed, and is named **The Pat Straughan RDA Group** in memory of a local Disabled Paralympic Silver Medallist. The group will aim to enable disabled adults and children from our area (from Bridgnorth to Cleobury Mortimer and all in between) to enjoy regular horse riding experiences utilising the resources available at the Country Treks base at the Ginny Hole in Stottesdon.

If you are interested in learning more about this please contact either the group Chairman Brian Hamilton-Russell on 01746 718577, the group secretary Jacky Davies on 01746 718093, or Steph Eddies-Davies at Country Treks on 01746 718436.

Chickens:

PLEASE if you have chickens do make sure that they cannot stray into other people's gardens!!

Dog mess:

Please remember to clean up after your dog on any road/footpath through the village - the litter bins can be used to dispose of the 'bagged' mess.

Parking:

Once again concern has been expressed to the Parish Council regarding the amount of vehicles parking on the pavements etc opposite the school during drop off and collection times for the school and playgroup. We are extremely concerned regarding the safety of children and other road users. Can we please ask **again** that you use the parking bays provided or in Glebe Drive. When vehicles are parked on the roadside it is very dangerous for other road users to have to drive past these on the wrong side of the road and also makes it difficult for vehicles coming out of Glebe Drive to see oncoming vehicles. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE BUS STOP! The Police are monitoring the situation.

Road Closure:

Unfortunately the road from Walton Cottages through Prescott to the Upper House junction is to be closed from Monday 19th April, 2010 for 5 days to allow drainage and carriageway works to be carried out. Pedestrian/dismounted cyclists/dismounted horse rider's access through the closure will be available.

The diversion route for eastbound traffic is west to Well farm junction, east to Hardwickforge, Station Lane to Stottesdon, south to Walton junction. Westbound traffic - east to Bagginswood, south to Hall Farm junction, west to Detton Hall junction, northwest on Withies Bank and Oretton road, north to Upper House junction.

We do appreciate that this will cause problems for some residents but the work needs to be carried out on the road.

The Parish Council also understands that there is to be a road closure in Chorley in the next few months in order for BT to supply new lines to the caravan park - dates to be confirmed.

Roads:

Many thanks to everyone for their tolerance with the road conditions - the Parish Council have regularly reported problems and have had site visits with the Highways Staff from Bridgnorth. Repairs have not been carried out due to lack of funding but we are now into the new financial year and a promise of work on our roads - the above work being the first! Work is to be carried out on the Bagginswood road (possibly commencing in May) but once again this may result in a road closure - we are sorry about this but the work needs doing and the men have to be able to work safely.

Winterburn Bridge - just a couple of days after printing the last newsletters we were notified that the work on the bridge was being suspended as the money for this had to be diverted elsewhere. This work is now planned for February 2011.

Once again can we please ask that you contact the Clerk regarding any potholes etc as Freda is in regular contact with Shropshire Council and is usually up to date with planned repairs. This saves duplicated messages going through to the Highways Department.

Stottesdon Church News:

It is good to report that the Revd Colin Resch is to be licensed as Priest in charge of the Stottesdon Benefice. He and his family will take up residence in the Rectory at Stottesdon. We hope everyone will make them welcome.

At the moment we are continuing with our events as follows:

Saturday May 1st Coffee Morning:

10am to 12.30pm in the Church. Bring and Buy, cakes, pastries and gift stalls etc. Come and have your morning 'break' with us.

Stottesdon Church Fete

Friday July 2nd - keep this date in your diaries! Sports and Mile races followed by the fete in the church grounds. Bar, BBQ, skittles, sideshows etc. Something for everyone!

Annual Cricket Match Sunday July 18th:

Between Stottesdon and Kinlet at Kinlet Hall.

Do try to come to some of these events - we do need all the support we can get!

Bell ringing at Stottesdon:

To ensure the bells are rung for most Sunday services we need to recruit a few volunteers each year to learn the art of bell ringing. No experience is necessary as full instructions will be given. It is a slow learning process and so if you feel you would like a 'taster' then come to one of our practices on Friday evenings at 7.45pm.

For more details ring 01746 718571 or contact any member of our band.

Nightingale Nursing Fund:

Football Fun Day - 6th June 2010

Despite concerns whether this very popular day would run this year we are once again graced with volunteers to help bring this day together. Last year we had over 60 5-a-side football teams competing - a spectacle in itself. From the Veterans to the very youngest teams the winners and runners up all receive medals.

Alongside this are the usual bouncy castles, stalls etc. We do need extra help as we are a small committee that runs the Nightingale Nursing Fund, putting help into the home at times of crisis. We are looking for extra pairs of hands as well as Raffle prizes and Tombola prizes. Please call Rosemary Abbiss 718210 if you have anything that needs collecting or if you are able to spare an hour or two to help.

Thank You

South Wheatlands Archive Group (SWAG):

There is masses of historic information in the Archive which is housed in the tower of the church. This really needs collating and putting in an easy readable form or even on the web. If anyone has some time and would like to start to tackle this task please contact Rosemary Abbiss 718210.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor:

Cllr Ian Swain has unfortunately resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments which has left a vacancy on the Parish Council.

Are you interested in joining the Parish Council? For more information please contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor. The Parish Council are looking to co-opt at their meeting on April 26th.

Thanks go to Ian for his contributions to the Parish Council.

Severn Hospice Charity Shop:

The new charity shop in aid of Severn Hospice will be open in Cleobury Mortimer from the 9th April 2010. Any donations of items would be very much appreciated. Volunteers are also required—contact Di Newsham (718223), Rosemary Abbiss (718210), Madge Shineton (718427) or the shop direct (01299 271391).

Voluntary Car Scheme:

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer driver for the above scheme? There is a desperate shortage of drivers for this area - if you are interested help please ring Jennifer Howes on 718675 for more details.

First Aid courses:

If you need to take or renew your HSE First Aid certificate, you can do this in the village.

Anthony Eddies-Davies, Penny Handford & Bill Brown of The Old Vicarage Adventure Centre, Stottesdon, are qualified to run the range of HSE First Aid Courses. These are run either in their on site purpose built classroom, or off site.

Courses, including the EFAW (Emergency First Aid at Work) one day course required by most employers, the 16 Hour Emergency First Aid in the Outdoors (day 2 with a range of hands on outdoor scenarios), the three day First Aid at Work course, and the 2 day Paediatric First Aid courses are all run by the centre with dates across the year. Other dates can be arranged by the centre for Groups, and the EFAW one day course can be run across a couple of evenings.

EFAW dates at the centre: 29th April, 27th May, 24th June, 27th July, 26th August, 29th September, 20th October, 30th November.
£55 p.p. +VAT

16 hour First Aid in the Outdoors Course dates at the centre: 27th-28th May, 27th-28th July, 20th-21st October, 30th November-1st December.
£110 p.p. +VAT

3 day First Aid at Work Course dates at the centre: 19th-21st May, 15th-17th September
£200 p.p. +VAT
2 day FAW refreshers also available.

Paediatric First Aid Course dates at the centre: 8th-9th July, 22nd-23rd September
£110 p.p. +VAT

For all course details see www.ovac.co.uk, or call Ali in the office 01746 718436 extension 1, or email enquiries@ovac.co.uk

Local Joint Committee:

The Local Joint Committee has proved a real success in its first year. I have been especially delighted by the number of people who have been interested to attend even when the weather has been difficult. Councillors and Officers welcome the public input and the problems they have raised, which we can then try and improve, cure, or tell you if it can't be done and why.

We decided to move the venues around the area to allow more local people in that area to attend, but we do need a reasonable size of hall and large parking area which limits where we can hold these meetings. The next meeting will be held at Neen Sollers Village Hall on May 19th at 7pm and on July 28th at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome to come and speak.

We have a £38,000 pot of money for local Community Groups to dip into and welcome applications. Please contact Tom Brettell on 01746 713209 or mobile 07977261338 or email tom.brettell@shropshire.gov.uk for help and application forms.
Look forward to seeing some of you - Cllr Madge Shineton.

Statement of accounts for year ending 31st March 2009

| | | Year ending 31.3.08 | Year ending 31.3.09 |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Balances brought forward | £7837.99 | £9471.61 |
| 2. | (+) Annual precept | £9337.00 | £13000.00 |
| 3. | (+) Total other receipts | £1624.53 | £8943.87 |
| 4. | (-) Staff costs | £5169.80 | £8801.37 |
| 5. | (-) Loan interest/capital investments | Nil | Nil |
| 6. | (-) Total other payments | £4158.11 | £12208.79 |
| 7. | (=) Balances carried forward | £9471.61 | £10405.32 |
| 8. | Total cash and short term assets | £9471.61 | £10405.32 |
| 9. | Total fixed assets and long term assets | £1960.61 | £1815.61 |
| 10. | Total borrowing | Nil | Nil |
| 11. | Trust funds (including Charitable) disclosure note | No | No |

These accounts were approved by the Parish Council on 27th April 2009 and by the External Auditors, Mazars LLP of Southampton on 24th September 2009.

The Parish Council are extremely grateful to Mrs Val Hill for carrying out the internal audit of these accounts.

Please note:

Whilst every effort is made to accuracy, Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors or omissions of advice given in this publication. The opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council.
If you would like a copy of this in larger print please contact the Clerk. This can also be viewed on the website.

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 (answerphone available)

Email - stottesdonpc@btinternet.com

Website: www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Mrs R Abbiss | 718210 | Mr B Hamilton-Russell | 718577 |
| Mr s Alison Parsons | 718047 | Mrs S Home | 718592 |
| Mrs J Davies | 718093 | Mrs D Newsham | 718223 |
| Mrs M Shineton | 718427 | Mrs R Griffiths | 718256 |
| Mrs D Walsh | 718527 | | |

SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Councillor Madge Shineton | 718427 |
| Councillor Gwilym Butler | 01584 890458 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stottesdon School | 718617 |
| Chorley Family Playgroup | 718769 |
| Stottesdon/Sidbury Church | 01746 862426 Rev Colin Resch |
| Chorley Village Hall | 07005 850 014 (bookings) |
| Doctors | 712672 |
| District Nurses | 711963 |
| Shropshire Council | 0345 678 9000 (general enquiries) |
| Lacon Childe School | 01299 270312 |
| Bridgnorth Endowed School | 762103 |
| Oldbury Wells School | 765454 |
| Social Car (Jenny Howes) | 718675 |
| WI (Jenny Everingham) | 718219 |
| Power Loss Helpline | 08457 331331 |
| Mobile Library | 01584 813600 |
| Crimestoppers | 0900 555111 |
| Rural Stress Network | 024 7641 2916 |
| 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 | 08457 444888 or 0300 333 3000 |
| AB Private Hire Taxi | 07876554911 (Cleobury Mortimer) |
| Tree Wardens: | |
| Wade Muggleton (Stottesdon) | 718753 |
| Nathan Home (Chorley) | 07966365157 |