

WOLVEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

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 28th April, 2010. 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 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
Roy Elliott	01455 220491
John Hawkins	01455 220482
Jon Slee	01455 220322
Ron Podesta	01455 220608
Roger Wickens	07976 238474

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

This year has seen a number of **changes in the members of the council**. The current Chair is Ruth Buswell, following the resignation of Bozena Kuncewicz, due to ill health. Councillor Kuncewicz took the chairmanship in May 2009, at a difficult time, when feelings were running high in the village due to the Gypsy and Traveller issue. There was much unrest and pressure to provide answers to questions that the parish council did not, and still does not have, so the transition from councillor to chair was not an easy one for her.

During her time on the Council, Bozena Kuncewicz has been instrumental in getting many projects up and running. It was her drive and enthusiasm which initiated the newsletter we all enjoy four times a year; the Parish Plan - a huge project that is now accepted as a working document by Rugby Borough Council; the Christmas Tree that she first proposed in 2005 helps to make Christmas special; the annual litter pick to help keep the village tidy; the hanging baskets and planters in the square; and also the entry to the Best Village competitions, in which we have been so successful. The Parish Council is grateful for all her efforts.

The council welcomes Roger Wickens, who recently became a parish councillor, and is already sitting comfortably in his role. Roger replaces Ben Kerrell Vaughan, who moved out of the village, so unfortunately he could not continue as councillor. Councillor Elliot continues, as our oldest member, to serve the parish council, even through a personally difficult year

The parish council has been working on several projects and initiatives during the year. The usual issues of speed and dog fouling, continue to be a problem. **A speed limit review** was carried out at Wolvey Heath, and as a result, in the near future the speed limit will be reduced from 50 to 40mph with new Wolvey Heath signs and a flashing speed aware sign. Consultations with the County Council Road Safety team are taking place to get speed aware signs and more traffic calming in the village centre. More **dog bins** are planned around the village and extra signage has been fitted in some areas. The Dog Warden is unable to act without specific information, so residents need to be observant and to name and shame any person they see allowing their dog to foul in a public place, including in fields.

A young person/ childrens questionnaire was distributed, seeking opinions on what is required to engage and occupy young people within the village. Unfortunately, the response was very disappointing, nevertheless, the parish council will move toward more inclusion of our young population.

The Parish Council has recently been able to improve **communications** with Wolvey residents through our excellent website (www.wolvey.org) and newsletter. Neither of these would be possible without the efforts and expertise of dedicated and talented volunteers, Mr Pate Hopkins and Mr Derek Warren for which the council is very grateful.

Fortunately, crime continues to be low in Wolvey, but to ensure the crime level stays low, we need more members of the public to join the **Neighbourhood Watch** group. The group meets just four times a year, is very informal, but is of vital importance to the wellbeing and safety of the village. Last meeting, despite a leaflet drop to every house, only six people attended. A lot of work has gone into getting this up and running and for the safety and protection of the village it needs to continue, so more support is needed to keep it going.

In contrast, the **Environmental Working Party** goes from strength to strength. Working to the Management plan devised by Councillor Slee, the Old Cricket Field Wetland Reserve has been transformed. The new boardwalk spur was added last October, funded by a grant from the Comma Aggregate Fund. It was installed by the volunteers and has opened up access to the woodland walk. 120 trees have been planted, other planting has taken place, a willow hide has been started and two thirds of the reed bed has been cleared to allow room for new spring growth.

The original boardwalk was officially opened as part of the **Summer Festival** celebrations in June 2009, held in conjunction with the Church Flower Festival. The event attracted many visitors, and although the weather could have been kinder, a successful day was had by all.

The village won a number of **awards** last year for which we received prize money of £250. These include:

Warwickshire Best Village of the Year Competition: Winner of the Environmental Projects 2009 and third in the Best Kept environment section.

In the Calor Village of the Year competition for Warwickshire we won the Business Category; and in Rugby in Bloom we achieved a GOLD Environmental award and SILVER in the Community category.

The Parish Councillors and the Clerk are constantly taking **training** courses to enhance their knowledge and efficiency, and to keep up to date with changes in legislation. The whole council last year undertook training to enable it to use "The Power of Wellbeing" to benefit the local community. As a result of the award of Quality Parish Council the council received a grant of £500 to purchase computer equipment.

Other projects during the year have resulted in two fully trained **Community First Responders** in the village and a new **bus shelter** installed in Bazzard Road.

There are still issues to be redressed in the village surroundings, but be assured the Parish Council will maintain its commitment to act in the best interest of the whole Wolvey community.

Finance Report for year and regulatory procedures

The precept for the year 2009 - 2010 was £30,000

Other receipts amounted to £18,947

Receipts during 2009-10 include:

- a) £2224 from Rugby Borough Council as the parish council has taken responsibility for cutting grass verges
- b) £604 for funds allocated under section 106 of the Town & County Planning Act 1990
- c) £5000 from Warwickshire County Council to purchase a new bus shelter
- d) £3762 grant from ACRE Comma fund
- e) £1037 donations from residents
- f) £1584 grant from Rugby Borough Council to purchase play equipment
- g) £500 grant from WALC QPS fund, to purchase IT equipment

The total expenditure for the year was £50,670

During 2009-10 significant capital expenditure included:

- a) £3600 to upgrade streetlights

- b) £5900 to purchase a new bus shelter
- c) £3762 to purchase materials to construct an extension to a boardwalk
- d) £1711 to purchase play equipment
- e) £1936 to equip a Community First Response team

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.

The total of the revenue budget for the year was £8803

The street lights in Wolvey are owned and maintained by Wolvey Parish Council. Due to expected increases in energy costs (and it's responsibility to the environment) the parish council has begun a programme of gradual upgrading of streetlights to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and reduce costs in the future.

The costs of electricity, maintenance and upgrading of streetlights accounted for £8225

The parish council also takes responsibility for cutting the grass verges in and around the village. To avoid double taxation of Wolvey residents, funds are obtained from Rugby BC and Warwickshire CC to offset the costs involved. The overall annual cost for 2009 was £2380 and the amount received from Rugby BC and Warwickshire CC was £2224. As a result, the amount remaining to be paid by the parish council was £156.

A total of £9611 was given as donations/ grants to organisations within the parish and to charities.

These included:

£500 to the Air Ambulance

£50.00 to Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau

£300 each to the Wolvey Brownies & Baby & Toddler Group

£600 to the new Wolvey Scouts group

£2000 to Wolvey Church and

£1050 to Baptist Chapel

£1500 to Village Hall and

£1600 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 31st March 2009, 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 reduced to £35782. This is because funds have been used from earmarked reserves as a result of the decision of the parish council not to increase the parish precept for the year.

Councillor Ruth Buswell (Chairman)

Margaret Cartwright (Proper Officer/ Responsible Financial Officer)

28th April, 2010