



# PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
April 2008 to  
March 2009

## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

I cannot believe it is a year since the last Annual Parish Meeting! Where does the time go?

It has been a year of comings and goings; achievements and disappointments.

We have lost 3 Councillors, Howard Barrett, Jim Noble and most recently, Peter Reeve - all through commitments elsewhere. We welcomed Paul Clarke in July, as an Associate Councillor, as he had not lived in the parish for a year, one of the stipulations of becoming a councillor. He was formerly with Southwater Parish Council for many, many years and his expertise has proved invaluable. Paul Parker replaced Howard in January 2009. Paul works for HDC Parks Department, so was immediately co-opted onto the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee, where his knowledge is priceless! Peter Reeve only left in March 2009 and as yet, has not been replaced. If you have thoughts on becoming a Councillor, please get in touch with Lesley Hoff, the Clerk for further information. The job is unpaid but very rewarding!

We also said "Goodbye" to Jim Leadbeatter in October, our Groundsman for more than 20 years but were very relieved when he offered to become our litter-picker and we have received many compliments on how clean he keeps our streets! Glenn Lewis took over as Groundsman from Jim and the Sports Clubs advise that the pitches are looking very good.

This might be a good time to mention the office staff. Lesley has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration, a qualification necessary for Pulborough to become a Quality Council in due course. Sarah has been with us for 18 months and is a whizz with anything to do with figures. Between them they have given us a very efficient and well-run office.

Let me move on to the achievements-

There is now a roundabout by Stane Street Close, which the Council managed to get reduced in size and planted by Bellway Homes. It is now much safer and more attractive.

New playground equipment was erected in the play area at Rectory Close. It is lovely to see the children coming out of school and swarming over it like ants!

More work has been done at Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground by volunteers from the Council and the village, led by Dan Cornell of the South Downs Joint Committee. There are even a couple of rustic benches made from offcuts of wood from the Ground.

Councillors now have a monthly surgery at the Farmers' Market. Please take any of your queries or bright ideas for the Village along to the surgery. They will be pleased to see you.

The new allotments are under way, with 8 new plots to be made available. As our waiting list is now over 20, you can see they are certainly needed. The provision of allotments is a DUTY that the Parish Council must, by law, undertake.

The car park at the Pavilion has been resurfaced and parking bays marked out and the Council is also providing a Village Transport Plan, with the help of Paul Addison from WSCC. I won't mention anymore about that, as Paul is here to give us an update and I would not want to steal his thunder.

Our only disappointment was caused by the Recession. Our plans to build a new pavilion have been put on ice until grants are again available.

I must also let you know about the grants we have given and received. I have included these in a separate written report, as I feel I have gone on for long enough!

One final thing - I am bowing out as Chairman of the Parish Council at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and Christine Barnett is stepping down as Vice Chairman. Both of us have held these positions for six years and feel it is time for a change. We have seen a great change in this time, with a lot more new legislation than ever before. The moment has (nearly) arrived to let someone else hold the reins!

Jan Botting  
Chairman  
May 2009

## **ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2009. PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Committee has met on average every two weeks, even including August when the other Committees of the Council have a 'break'. The frequency of meetings is to ensure that plans submitted to Horsham District Council are given an official response within the statutory time-frame. Although Pulborough is restricted to 'recommendation' status only, we would like to think that the planners in Horsham take some cognisance of our views – although sometimes the decision reached by them give us cause for some concern.

This past year has seen a reduced number of planning applications – probably because of the current recession.

We were very pleased that larger proposed developments were brought to the Planning Committee prior to the official planning application being submitted to Horsham. In particular this applies to the proposed development of the 'new' Alfrey Plat development at the southern end of Mill Lane and the proposed development for the Winery close to Brinsbury College. Presentations to the Planning Committee prior to submission of plans not only allows the developers to hear the views and queries of the Planning Committee but also allows members of the public to have some idea of what is 'in the air' and to give their views. The Planning Committee, as is the case with all Committees of the Parish Council, is open to any member of the public to attend. There is always time allocated at every meeting for any member of the public to 'have their say' and give their views on any subject on the Agenda.

A few decisions reached by Horsham District Council are 'appealed' by the applicant and the Chairman of the Planning Committee attended one Appeal

Hearing the result of which at the time of writing (9 May 2009) has not been given., This matter was referred to in my last year's report ie the erection of a large wooden garden shed for use as a dwelling. The outcome of this no doubt will be available in next year's report!

The Planning Committee does endeavour to look at all the plans with due diligence and arrive at a decision with respect to planning laws only – it is not always easy – we know we are unable to please all the applicants all the time – it is also difficult to please everyone in Pulborough all the time either – but we do our best to ensure that Pulborough remains a vibrant happy and attractive place in which to live.

## **PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE FINANCIAL YEAR END 31/03/2009**

Attached are draft Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for the last financial year. As in previous years these are subject to final audit. Specific matters to which I would draw attention are as follows;

The precept last year was increased in monetary terms from £125,000 to £145,000. Other Income also increased due in the main to a grant received for new playground equipment of £23,400.

This year saw Capital spending of £25,496 on the playground equipment referred to earlier. (included under rec and open spaces) and £7,114 on new bus shelters.

Once adjusted for Capital items, expenditure for the year was almost identical to that of last year.

Overall there was a margin of just over £19,000 between Income and Expenditure. £15,200 of this was transferred to Earmarked funds (£10,000 towards the Sports Pavilion refurbishment/renovation £2,500 towards the MSF resurfacing and £2,700 for the new allotments). The small balance goes to increase our General Fund.

Due to the current financial climate it has been considered prudent to suspend the project under consideration to replace and upgrade the Sports pavilion. Instead the cost of repairing and renovating the building are being investigated. It is hoped that with the help of some small grants for improvements, funds already set aside might be adequate for us to afford this short term solution.

Funds continue to be deposited safely with NatWest Bank.

We are not budgeting for any exceptional expenditure during the next year . Taking account of inflation the precept has been set at £150,295 an increase of 2% per household (band D ).

I will be happy to respond to any questions that may arise from the floor.

Ivor Kiverstein  
Chairman Finance and Policy

## **REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

The Recreation and Open Spaces Committee continues its close links with the Sports Clubs, holding monthly meetings with representatives of the various clubs that use the facilities.

The Committee is also responsible for the maintenance of the recreation grounds at Rectory Close, Cousins Way and Nutbourne Common. Some of the tasks undertaken by members are too small to be noticed, such as cutting back the brambles at Cousins Way Ground, whilst others have a greater impact, such as the provision of new playground equipment.

Our latest project is to repair the hole in the fence leading from Chestnut Walk to the Rectory Close with heavy-duty chainlink fencing. This is not a Public Right of Way and the fence has had to be repaired three times in the last few months. On the last occasion, it was cut by an elderly gentleman, who came armed with wire cutters!

We are also worried about horses being ridden on Parish Council land, as this is against the byelaws. The byelaws, recently approved by the Secretary of State, are there to prevent anti-social use of the Recreation Grounds, making them a safer place for everyone to enjoy.

The Committee looks forward to this financial year, with plans to refurbish the pavilion and provide more equipment in the Rectory Close play area, amongst other things.

I would now like to invite questions from the floor.

# SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(Awaiting External Audit)

Last Yr ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2008		Last Yr ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2009
125,000	<b>Income Summary</b>	
	Precept	145,000
<b>125,000</b>	Sub Total	<b>145,000</b>
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
2,585	Administration	2,647
15,489	Capital	23,400
0	Loans and Finance	1,581
1,989	MSF	2,799
146	Discretionary	9,561
0	Allotments	0
3,176	Bowling Club	3,858
10,774	Other Recreation	11,063
<b>159,159</b>	Total Income	<b>199,909</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
17,597	Administration	14,832
100	Advertising & Publicity	0
0	Capital	7,114
12,098	Loans and Finance	12,098
74	MSF	944
47,158	Staff Costs	57,224
4,660	Discretionary	5,246
13,010	Highways	9,826
7,358	Street Lighting	4,653
1,967	Allotments	1,926
4,596	Bowling Club	4,806
0	Grounds Maintenance	0
0	Pavilion	0
46,333	Recreation	62,200
<b>154,951</b>	Total Expenditure	<b>180,869</b>
	<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
58,486	Opening Balance	62,694
159,160	Plus : Income for Year	199,909
217,619		262,603
154,951	Less : Expenditure	180,869
62,694		81,734
0	Transfers TO/FROM Reserves	0
<b>62,694</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>81,734</b>

# COUNCIL MEMBERS

## Chairman

Jan Botting Woodbroke, Toat Lane, Pulborough Ex Officio All Committees

## Vice Chairman

Christine Barnett 35 The Spinney, Pulborough, RH20 2AP  
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Recreation & Open Spaces (C)

## Councillors

Mrs Hazel Black, 18 Swan View, Pulborough, RH20 2BF  
Tel : 01798 874663 Finance & Policy  
Planning & Services (C)

Mr David Boulton 14 The Spinney, Pulborough, RH20 2AP  
Tel : 01798 873273 Planning & Services  
Recreation & Open Spaces (VC)

Mr Paul Clarke 9 Riverside, Pulborough, RH20 1FJ  
Tel : 01798 875645 Finance & Policy  
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Mr John Denison The Glebe Barn, Old Rectory Lane,  
Pulborough, RH20 2AF  
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Mr Lawrie Ellis 20 Lyntons, Pulborough, RH20 1AZ  
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Mr Ivor Kiverstein Tullens Toat, Pickhurst Lane, RH20 1DA  
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Mrs Andrea Lawson Mill Farm, Stream Lane,  
Nutbourne RH20 2HG  
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Recreation & Open Spaces

Mr Paul Parker 15 Link Lane, RH20 2AN  
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Mr R Qusted "Greenford", Batts Lane, RH20 2ED  
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# OFFICERS

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