



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2009 to March 2010

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have come to the end of my first year as Chairman and whilst there have been ups and downs, in the main there have been more ups than downs.

Before I go on I must express my sincere thanks to all my fellow Councillors who, despite all leading very busy lives, manage to put in a great deal of time in addition to the regular meetings of the various Committees, to work for the benefit of our Community. I would at this point like to let you know that one of our members, Alex Kipp, is one of the youngest Councillors in the Country and provides great insight into the lives of the younger residents in our Parish.

There are also three people that the Council is very fortunate to have in the Parish Office. I refer to Sarah our Clerk and her two colleagues Sally Cooper and Lisa Deverson and my thanks go to them. I must not forget our other staff, Fred Bushby (Groundsman), Lisa Richards (Caretaker), Jim Leadbetter (Litter Warden) and Peter Lee (Handyman). Without their efforts the Council simply could not function.

It is vitally important that the Council is aware of the views of the people of the village as this is a fundamental part of living in a democracy. The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.30pm and is located at the rear of the Village Hall so please let us know if you have any issues. We may not be able to solve all problems but we may be in a position to help you with some or point you in the right direction.

The terrible winter is now behind us and your comments with regard to the icy pavements have been noted. There was a sense of great relief at the success in having the proposed new town at Adversane/North Heath removed from Horsham District Council's Core Strategy Review. This was a combined effort between ourselves, neighbouring parishes and local groups. It goes to show what may be achieved if we all work together. Unfortunately, this has not worked in the case of the Oddstones Development which was allowed at Appeal. The Council is not only involved with planning issues within the village but also in neighbouring parishes such as Laybrook Landfill and Horncroft sandpit. Both of these proposals would adversely impact on the traffic flow through Pulborough so it is important that we support our neighbours over issues such as these.

One achievement this year has been the completion of the eight new allotments. These are now up and running with the sheds coming in the next financial year. We have started in a modest way with the redevelopment of the Sports Pavilion. The first task has been to deal with flooding problems and to this end a new surface water drain is to be put in which will empty into the Pocket Park stream. The Council continues to improve the play area equipment whilst unfortunately also having to deal with repairs due to vandalism.

We still have one vacancy on the Council and have had for more than a year. Would you like to get involved? If so, or if you would simply like a little more information please contact the Parish Office.

Finally, may I wish you all a good summer with plenty of sunshine.

David Jolliffe – Chairman

PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

During the past 12 months the Planning Committee has met on average every two weeks – it has been noticeable that there have been fewer planning applications for our area than in previous years and this is most likely because of the nationwide financial situation. However this does not mean that the Committee has been idle – far from it – we still have to look at the plans which do come to us and we still have to make site visits if this is necessary – particularly if there is a proposed alteration or extension or new build which could become controversial.

Developers are now making presentations to the Planning Committee before submitting an application to Horsham and the Committee members find this most helpful. The developer then has a better idea of needs or alterations in a particular area. It is a great pity however that the developers of the Oddstones Site did not listen to the Planning Committee and other members of the community who are still most anxious that there is a total lack of playing or recreational area on the Oddstones Site. Pulborough Planning Committee is still anxious that its views appeared to be totally ignored when the matter was taken to Appeal by the developer.

It is very helpful to the Committee when they (via communications to the Parish Clerk) are informed of views by members of the public and other village organisations (eg the Pulborough Society). The Committee is also very happy to have presentations by members of the public at the Planning Meetings to either support or disagree with any planning application. We would like to think that Horsham District Council actually listens to the views of Pulborough Planning Committee – sometimes it seems that they do not.

Finally, as Chairman of the Planning Committee I take this opportunity to thank all the Committee members for their help, hard-work and thoughtful deliberations this past year. In particular I sincerely thank the Vice-Chairman, David Boulton, for taking over meetings earlier this year when circumstances prevented me from attending meetings.

Hazel Black - Chairman Planning Committee

RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been my first year as Chairman of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee and once again we have had a busy twelve months, meeting once every month except in August and December.

As ever the main focus for our work is the main recreation ground and its facilities. A new roundabout has been installed in the children's play area and the council continues to maintain and update the equipment. Unfortunately, there continues to be the problem of vandalism in the play area and plans are in progress to install lights to improve security.

We have welcomed a new groundsman, Fred Bushby, who has been working hard to bring the ground up to scratch after the very hard winter that we have all experienced and my thanks go to him. Plans are underway to improve the Pavilion building and this will start with repairs to the drains in the area to ensure that the building no longer floods in times of heavy rainfall as happened several times during last winter. You may have noticed the heavy duty fencing to the rear of the pavilion which had to be installed, at some expense, to stop people cutting through from Chestnut Walk.

As the Chairman mentioned earlier, eight new allotments have been completed and tenants are already working on their first crop. If you are interested in having an allotment please contact the Parish Office who will add your name to the waiting list.

A new noticeboard has been erected at the recreation ground so please take time to check this for news of not only Parish Council activities but activities at the ground itself.

David Boulton – Chairman Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Following this written report is the draft Income and Expenditure account 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 £145,000 to £150,295. Other Income was similar to the prior year. This year saw Capital spending of £9,721 on playground equipment. (Included under contingency heading along with grants and donations and fees relating to the Pavilion refurbishment project.) Overall expenditure for the year was around 5% higher than the previous year in the main due to increased staff costs. These related mainly due to extra staffing rather than increased salaries. Overall there was a margin of just over £12,500 between Income and Expenditure. This amount went to increase overall reserves. Earmarked funds within our reserves were increased during the year by £6,429. (£2,500 for MSF resurfacing and £3,929 towards the Pavilion refurbishment fund.)

Turning to the current year, your Parish Council was of the view that in the current financial climate residents should not be asked to pay an increased precept. Accordingly this has been maintained at the same level as 2009/10. Because of this we are not budgeting for any exceptional expenditure but nevertheless expect a balanced budget. We do however urgently need to replace certain playground equipment and £15,000 has been budgeted for this purpose. In addition we have now repaid in full the Public Loans Board loan secured in connection with building the new village hall. We are therefore utilising the amount formerly repaid in this regard each year to supplement the fund we are establishing for refurbishment of the Pavilion. £22,000 will be set aside this year towards this project which may well get underway this year.

Ivor Kiverstein - Chairman Finance and Policy

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(Awaiting External Audit)

Last Yr ended 31 st March 2009		Current Yr ended 31 st March 2010
	Income Summary	
145,000	Precept	150,295
145,000	Sub Total	150,295
	Operating Income	
2,681	Administration	934
3,557	Capital	0
1,582	Loans and Finance	62
2,750	MSF	2,808
4,044	Discretionary	4,144
905	Allotments	1,209
4,477	Bowling Club	4,510
6,465	Other Recreation	9,523
171,461	Total Income	173,484
	Running Costs	
13,913	Administration	12,708
0	Advertising & Publicity	551
7,115	Capital	0
12,098	Loans and Finance	12,098
894	MSF	7
58,085	Staff Costs	64,803
5,268	Discretionary	21,604
7,791	Highways	2,429
4,660	Street Lighting	2,839
1,846	Allotments	5,591
4,921	Bowling Club	5,191
3,368	Grounds Maintenance	4,033
19,759	Pavilion	19,131
12,678	Other Recreation	9,913
152,395	Total Expenditure	160,898
	General Fund Analysis	
62,668	Opening Balance	81,734
171,461	Plus : Income for Year	173,484
234,129		255,218
152,395	Less : Expenditure	160,898
81,734		94,320
0	Transfers TO/FROM Reserves	0
81,734	Closing Balance	94,320

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman

Mr David Jolliffe "Nefisha", Gay Street Lane, Ex Officio All Committees
North Heath, Pulborough, RH20 2HW
Tel : 01798 872016

Vice Chairman

Mr Ray Qusted "Greenford", Batts Lane, Finance & Policy Committee (VC)
Pulborough, RH20 2ED Ex Officio All Other Committees
Email: ray@eyeleveldesign.co.uk
Tel : 01798 874283

Councillors

Mrs Christine Barnett 35 The Spinney, Pulborough, RH20 2AP Planning & Services
Tel : 01798 873319 Recreation & Open Spaces (VC)

Mrs Hazel Black, 18 Swan View, Pulborough, RH20 2BF Finance & Policy
Tel : 01798 874663 Planning & Services (C)
Mr David Boulton 14 The Spinney, Pulborough, RH20 2AP Planning & Services (VC)
Tel : 01798 873273 Recreation & Open Spaces (C)

Mr Paul Clarke 9 Riverside, Pulborough, RH20 1FJ Finance & Policy
Tel : 01798 875645 Planning & Services
Email: amandaandpaul@yahoo.com Recreation & Open Spaces

Mr John Denison The Glebe Barn, Old Rectory Lane, Planning & Services
Pulborough, RH20 2AF Recreation & Open Spaces
Tel : 01798 872613

Email: denisons@btinternet.com

Mr Lawrie Ellis 20 Lyntons, Pulborough, RH20 1AZ Finance & Policy
Tel : 01798 874357

Mr Alex Kipp c/o Parish Council Office, Swan View, Lower Recreation & Open Spaces
Street, RH20 2BP
Tel : 01798 875451

Email: ac_kipp@hotmail.com

Mr Ivor Kiverstein Tullens Toat, Pickhurst Lane, RH20 1DA Finance & Policy (C)
Tel : 01798 872108

Email: ivorkiverstein@aol.com

Mrs Andrea Lawson Mill Farm, Stream Lane, Planning & Services
Nutbourne RH20 2HG Recreation & Open Spaces
Tel : 01798 813746

Mr Paul Parker 15 Link Lane, RH20 2AN Recreation & Open Spaces
Tel : 01798 873037

Email: paulporkyparker@sky.com

Mrs M Roberts c/o Parish Council Office, Swan View, Lower Finance & Policy
Street, Pulborough, RH20 2BF

Tel : 01798 875413

Mrs Katie Watson Brambles, Batts Lane RH20 2ED Planning & Services

Tel : 01798 875413

Email: wwordwise@aol.com

OFFICERS

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs Sarah Norman Parish Council Office, Swan View, Lower Office Hours
Street, Pulborough, RH20 2BF

Tel : 01798 873532 Monday to Friday

Email: 9am to 12.30pm

clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Web : www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk