



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2011 to March 2012

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In my first year as Chairman, I am pleased to report that we have been awarded Quality Council Status. This is an accolade which has been achieved thanks to the efforts of many hard working people, both on and off the Council. The award will be formally presented to the Council, by Rt Hon Earl of Lytton DL, President of the Sussex Association of Local Councils, at the Full Council Meeting on 19th July 2012.

The greatest change that most of you will have seen in the village over the past year is the development taking place at the old "Oddstones" site opposite Sainsburys on Codmore Hill. The Parish Council, along with Horsham District Council, expressed concern over this project, in particular its lack of open space within the site, but our efforts were thwarted by the Planning Inspector on appeal, on the grounds that the development would need to go ahead in its present form to satisfy the overall housing requirements for the District as set out in the South East plan. Another development based on similar reasoning may well go ahead to the south of Stane Street Close, but not before a thorough examination of the water and sewage pipe work has been undertaken to ensure that the current infrastructure can cope with the increased pressure that it will come under from these developments.

The new developments at the old Arundale School site and in Glebelands are also nearing completion and will be ready for occupation in the coming months.

We have recently undertaken a survey with children in the area to identify what new facilities they would like to see in the children's playground, as we have plans to replace some of the equipment within the coming year. Suggestions ranged from pirate ships to zip wires, tunnels to skate parks. All of these ideas will now be considered by the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee to try and design equipment that the children will enjoy.

The Pulborough Community Partnership has obtained funding to undertake a number of projects over the coming months and from the feedback from all who attended their open meeting and AGM late last year will shortly be prioritising projects to be undertaken.

A sub-committee has been investigating the feasibility and costs involved in rebuilding a large part of the Sports and Social Club site and we hope shortly to be able to have a project with which we can go to the whole village with a consultation process to seek approval before we go ahead.

I am glad to say that we are continuing to maintain high standards within the village and for this I have to thank not only our Parish Clerk, Deputy clerk and Assistant Clerk but also our litter picker, cleaner and groundsman all of whom perform sterling work, and, not least of all, all our new and existing councillors who have been very supportive of me and the staff.

Members of the public are always welcome at our meetings throughout the year and should you wish to speak on any subject contained within the Agenda our Clerk will be happy to include you, provided that she receives the requisite notice.

Finally, in this Jubilee and Olympic year, in which the school and social club will be undertaking festivities, I hope that you all have a very enjoyable time.

Ray Quested
Chairman

PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

During the past year there have not been as many small planning applications as in previous years. The Parish Council has, however, received and considered the application for the new development south of Stane Street Close. As many of you may know, this application has come before the Planning & Services Committee on several occasions, amendments having been made, with the last occasion being just before Christmas. The Committee supported those residents who had expressed an objection to the plans but the plans were ultimately given a recommendation of approval by Horsham District Council's Planning Committee, subject to a few points, earlier this year. The Parish Council will continue to lobby Horsham District Council to ensure that if the project does ultimately go ahead, the maximum benefits are secured for the community through the S106 Agreement with the developer.

The large development at the former Oddstones site is now well under way and there have been two other schemes that have been progressed. The first is at the old Arundale School and this will be called Arundale Mews. The second is at the bottom of Glebelands and the name for this has been confirmed as Drovers Way.

The Council continues to have concerns about major infrastructure issues including sewerage, drainage and air quality and the impact further development will have on these already stretched issues.

The recent Localism Bill and the new Planning Policy Framework will certainly have an impact on every community in the country. At the time of going to press, the Parish Council is talking about the possible production of a Neighbourhood Plan which, whilst it cannot prevent development within the village, it is hoped that it will give a voice to the community to determine what type of development should take place and where. Please do come along to any Parish Council Planning & Services Committee meetings to keep up to date in this area.

RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE REPORT

This year we have at last installed the lighting in the playground on the main recreation ground. It is hoped this will improve security in the area but please do continue to report any anti-social behaviour in the area on the new non-emergency police number, 101.

The new basketball/football goal by the MSF seems to be popular and it is good to see this and all of the grounds well used. Once again, thanks go to our groundsman, Fred Bushby, for all the good work he does on both the Main and Top Rec.

Can I please ask all dog owners who use the public open spaces, especially those where sport is also played, to clear up after their pets. The Sports Clubs tell us they have to check and clear up before every game, which is not fair. Not only is it thoughtless and inconsiderate but also if caught, a large fine is incurred. Furthermore, it is a well known fact that disease is carried in dog faeces, a danger to all, but especially to the younger members of our community who play at the recreation ground.

Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground continues to improve reflecting the hard work by PPC and local residents.

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Following this written report is the draft Income and Expenditure account of your council for the last financial year. As in previous years these are subject to final audit. Specific matters to which I would draw attention to are as follows;

The precept for the year ended 31st March 2012 increased in monetary terms from £156,532 to £158,678 after the council voted for the second year in a row a zero % increase in the precept in the amount paid by each household. The increase in the total was an additional amount raised through an increase in property numbers within the Parish. Other Income was similar to prior years with various rents increased with inflation and grants secured by the council added a further £15,994 for the year. This year saw Capital spending of £8500 on improvements to the Recreation Ground equipment. The surplus generated this year went to increase overall reserves and increase earmarked funds the latter destined either as a sinking fund to cover a future large expense or to serve as the base funding for future projects such as the refurbishment of the Pavilion Building, the resurfacing of the MSF and improvements to the Top Rec at the rear of Cousins Way. The amount added to ring fenced funds during the year was £36,654.

Turning to the current year, your Parish Council was of the view that after maintaining the precept at zero % increase for two years, it would be imprudent to do so for a third year in view of the projected funding needs over the near future. Therefore in view of increasing costs and the need to prepare the funding for future projects, the council voted an 2.84 % increase in the per house charge for the year 2012-2013 - which represents £66.47 per band D property. Once again, due to an increase in the number of properties, this will result in a total precept payable to the Parish Council of £164,723. The work party looking at the refurbishment and redevelopment of the sports pavilion is expected to conclude its plans by the summer. This project is currently being scoped with the architects and will be put out to tender to better understand the real cost of the project. The plan will then be put out for the consultation of Residents and further funding streams will also be identified. The replacement of certain playground equipment will be carried out in the context of the three year rolling forecast plan, plus the replacement of some of the equipment used in the maintenance of the Recreation and Public areas of the village. Some of this may be met by a contribution from S106 funding provided by new development in the village.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(Awaiting External Audit)

Yr ended 31 st March 2011		Current Yr ended 31 st March 2012
	Income Summary	
156,532	Precept	158,678
156,532	Sub Total	158,678
	Operating Income	
228	Administration	131
0	Capital	2,838
76	Loans and Finance	557
2,072	MSF	2,237
7,339	Discretionary	17,820
0	Highways	726
1,277	Allotments	1,220
4,622	Bowling Club	4,622
0	Pavilion	3,978
11,167	Other Recreation	9,209
183,313	Total Income	202,302
	Running Costs	
14,941	Administration	15,235
0	Advertising & Publicity	0
0	Capital	2,838
0	Loans and Finance	0
988	MSF	169
63,516	Staff Costs	63,069
22,488	Discretionary	25,806
3,165	Highways	2,903
1,623	Street Lighting	3,528
1,314	Allotments	900
5,999	Bowling Club	5,362
1,412	Grounds Maintenance	2,893
11,696	Pavilion	13,241
9,378	Other Recreation	8,808
136,521	Total Expenditure	144,754
	General Fund Analysis	
94,320	Opening Balance	141,112
183,313	Plus : Income for Year	202,302
277,633		343,414
136,521	Less : Expenditure	144,754
141,112		198,660
0	Transfers TO/FROM Reserves	
141,112	Closing Balance	198,660

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman

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2 x Vacancies

OFFICERS

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DEPUTY CLERK Mrs Sally Cooper

ASSISTANT CLERK Mrs Lisa Deverson

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Office Hours

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9am to 12.30pm