



# PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
April 2012 to March 2013

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last 12 months have been a period of change within the village and arguably not all of it has been for the better.

The Oddstones housing site has continued to expand and dominate the western side of Codmore Hill. Neither the Parish Council nor Horsham District Council approved this housing site in the first place and apart from the Planning Inspector who overruled both councils on appeal, I have yet to meet anyone who thinks that it enhances our community.

We have lost 2 post office locations during the year causing inevitable disruption to services generally. We do have a temporary location in place at Evies Baby Boutique and it is hoped that a more permanent site will be found in due course.

Ash disease which, as its name implies, affects our ash trees is still with us and indications are that Pulborough will not remain unaffected for too long; there is little or nothing that can be done to prevent or eradicate the disease. We have to remain vigilant and act as soon as possible.

It's not all doom and gloom though.

I am pleased to report that the cricket club has been successful in its funding application to change and to improve the lie of the square. This is not as simple as it may sound and will require a lot of work. The result though will improve things greatly.

On a similar note we have now a full and balanced picture of works to be carried out on the pavilion and changing rooms to bring them up to an acceptable standard, and the costs involved; we have still to have all the funding in place but as soon as we have we will be presenting the proposals to the village as a whole for your approval.

We have recently installed new fencing at the rear of the pavilion between the Recreation Ground and Chestnut Walk .

A number of grit bin locations were identified last year and I'm pleased to say that a number of grit bins were installed. We will endeavour to provide even more for next winter.

Over the coming months we will be taking steps to locate and build a Memorial Garden to all those from this parish, both service personnel and civilians, who lost their lives during the two world wars. The preferred site is the area within and to the east of the main car park of Lower Street, which many parishioners already identify as a memorial garden. Over the coming months my Vice Chairman- Paul Clarke together with Martin Dale will attempt to take the project forward for a proposed commemoration in 2014.

It is with regret that we are saying goodbye to our Assistant Clerk, Lisa Deverson. She will be joining Littlehampton Town Council which is very much their gain and our loss but we wish her every success.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thank my hard-working Clerk Sarah Norman who despite a very difficult year for her has always seemed to remain calm and in control.

## **PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

In the last year there have been a few major developments approved or considered for Pulborough. Key events have been a recent approval to expand facilities at Brinsbury, and outline planning permission for 100 houses on land south of Stane Street Close. The latter was approved by the district council despite very strong local opposition.

The committee has also been looking at infrastructure in the village, and has found the following:-

- 1) Sewerage and drainage systems are inadequate, and at times of heavy rain there are a number of places where drainage water flows into the sewerage system;
- 2) Rail services to London are getting progressively slower with bus services not connecting with the most heavily used commuter trains. Traffic along Lower Street, at Swan Corner, near the railway station and in Broomers Hill Lane have become an increasing concern.
- 3) There is significant pressure on school places, particularly at secondary level, and in future years, the education authority may no longer be able to offer every Pulborough child a place at the Weald School.

Given all of the above, it is important that the views of local people are taken into account when putting together a vision of the future. So... how do you think Pulborough needs to change in coming years? Which issues are most relevant to you, and are there any others that we should be taking into account? Please let us know, either by letter to the Parish Office, or by email to [clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk). Please mark any correspondence on this 'Village Survey'.

## **RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE REPORT**

This year we have managed to allocate 6 plots to new allotmenters. However, we still have a waiting list as the popularity of growing your own continues. Sheds have been erected on each of the new plots by a team of volunteers made up of allotment holders, parish councillors and friends, ably supervised by our groundsman, Fred Bushby. This was a great team effort!

The Parish Council continues to work with sports clubs to ensure the main recreation ground is kept in good condition. Unfortunately with the poor weather we have endured this winter, this has meant several fixtures have had to be abandoned. On a positive note the Parish Council is supporting Pulborough Cricket Club with its planned pitch improvements. Pulborough should be proud of all the sports clubs – Football (both senior and junior Python teams), Cricket, Stoolball and Snooker and their successes and support the volunteers who put in so much work to achieve them.

Following consultation with children from St Mary's School, the design of the Pirate Galleon was decided on and finance sought. The council applied for s106 funding from Horsham District council and 90% of the cost obtained. The result of this collaboration is a magnificent piece of play equipment that is proving to be very popular among our younger residents.

In summary this has been a year that has demonstrated the value of working together but has highlighted the need for prudence in managing our expenditure in the current economic climate.

## **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. The precept for the year ended 31st March 2013 increased in monetary terms from £158,678 to £164,723 after the council voted an increase in the precept in the amount paid by each household. The increase for each band D property for the past financial year 2012-2013 was 2.84 % per annum. Other Income was similar to prior years with various rents increased with inflation and grants secured by the council (e.g. for play equipment). The surplus generated this year went to increase overall reserves and increase earmarked funds to serve as the base funding for future projects.

Turning to the current year, your Parish Council was of the view that a further increase was necessary to the precept due to projected funding needs over the near future. The Council decided it was necessary to provide support for our youth and to support this from our resources due to funding cuts by other councils. The major projected increase to Council costs is our share in a youth worker to provide resources for youth provision and outreach in the community. The youth worker will be shared with Billingshurst in a joint venture to spread the costs between both councils. Coldwaltham may also avail itself of this resource on an ad hoc basis paying separately for it. After a full tendering process facilitated by HDC, Horsham Matters Ltd were appointed as the provider of the Community Youth Worker service and interviews are underway to fill the post.

As the Chairman reported, the project planning work on the refurbishment of the Pavilion Building continued during the last financial year. In terms of other projects planned by your council at the top of the list in terms of outside facilities are the improvements to the Top Rec at the rear of Cousins Way. Therefore in view of the need to prepare the funding for future projects, the council voted for an increase of 30 pence per month on a band D property for the financial year 2013-2014.

# SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(Awaiting External Audit)

Current Yr ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012		Current Yr ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013
	<b>Income Summary</b>	
158,678	Precept	164,723
<hr/> <b>158,678</b>	Sub Total	<hr/> <b>164,723</b>
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
131	Administration	382
2,838	Capital	0
557	Loans and Finance	875
2,237	MSF	2,519
17,820	Discretionary	6,310
726	Highways	0
1,220	Allotments	1,126
4,622	Bowling Club	2,929
3,978	Pavilion	0
9,209	Other Recreation	10,729
<hr/> <b>202,302</b>	Total Income	<hr/> <b>189,592</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
15,235	Administration	14,496
0	Advertising & Publicity	904
2,838	Capital	0
0	Loans and Finance	0
169	MSF	54
63,069	Staff Costs	65,192
25,806	Discretionary	38,952
2,903	Highways	4,950
3,528	Street Lighting	3,705
900	Allotments	1,795
5,362	Bowling Club	3,584
2,893	Grounds Maintenance	1,653
13,241	Pavilion	12,661
8,808	Other Recreation	20,037
<hr/> <b>144,754</b>	Total Expenditure	<hr/> <b>167,983</b>
	<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
141,112	Opening Balance	198,660
<hr/> 202,302	Plus : Income for Year	<hr/> 189,592
343,414		
<hr/> 144,754	Less : Expenditure	<hr/> 167,983
198,660	Transfers TO/FROM Reserves	0
<hr/> <b>198,660</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<hr/> <b>220,269</b>

# COUNCIL MEMBERS

## Chairman

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

## Vice Chairman

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

## Councillors

Mr Mark Bridger                      5 Stane Street Close, Pulborough, RH20 1BD                      Recreation & Open Spaces  
Email: [bridger69.hood@gmail.com](mailto:bridger69.hood@gmail.com)  
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Mr Lawrie Ellis                      20 Lyntons, Pulborough, RH20 1AZ                      Finance & Policy (VC)  
Tel : 01798 874357

Mrs Rachel Gill                      14 Aston Rise, Pulborough, RH20 2JA                      Recreation & Open Spaces  
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Mrs E Kipp                      1 Laurel Mount, Pulborough, RH20 2PE                      Finance & Policy  
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Mrs Andrea Lawson                      Mill Farm, Stream Lane, Nutbourne RH20 2HG                      Planning & Services  
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Mrs C Mortimer                      145 Lower Street, Pulborough, RH20 2BX                      Planning & Services  
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Mrs J Roach                      21 Riverside, Pulborough, RH20 1FJ                      Finance & Policy  
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Mr G Spillane                      49 Chestnut Walk, Pulborough, RH20 1AN                      Recreation & Open Spaces  
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Dr Andy Tilbrook                      Milton, Church Place, Pulborough, RH20 1AF                      Finance & Policy  
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Mrs E Wallace                      25 Carpenters Meadow Pulborough RH20 2HQ                      Recreation & Open Spaces (VC)  
Email : [liz@ptoc.cc](mailto:liz@ptoc.cc)  
Tel : 01798 872734

Mr J Wallace                      25 Carpenters Meadow Pulborough RH20 2HQ                      Planning & Services (VC)  
Email : [biz@ptoc.cc](mailto:biz@ptoc.cc)  
Tel : 01798 872734

2 x Vacancies

# OFFICERS

## CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

**Mrs Sarah Norman**

## ASSISTANT CLERK

Mrs Sally Cooper

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Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
9am to 12.30pm