



# PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
April 2013 to March 2014

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A year ago there was very little to report other than concerns over proposed and existing housing developments, the lack of a Post Office and the onset of Ash Disease.

Thankfully my report this year looks much more optimistic.

The Localism Bill has given Parish Councils the opportunity to have a greater say in how they see their community developing. We have taken up this opportunity and the process will involve the production of a Neighbourhood Plan that once produced and having been passed by the relevant inspectors will provide a framework for the village for the next 15 to 20 years. There will be continuing consultation with the whole community during this process. The Plan will take another year to be finalised and all of the community have a chance to become involved.

The Post Office now seems to be in safe hands within Gatleys in Lower Street; I know it is a great relief to many people. The new street lights in Lower Street have now been installed and more changes are envisaged over the coming months to improve both the street scene and pedestrian access.

Ash Disease is still prevalent unfortunately and there is little that can be done to prevent it other than to report any findings. The transport of ash plants has been prohibited for the time being.

By the time that you read this Report the Memorial Garden should be well under way and be ready for its commemoration in August; we will keep everybody informed of progress.

We are still awaiting Horsham District Council's reply to our application for a grant towards the building of a new Sports Pavilion but by the time of the Annual Parish Meeting I hope to have more positive news.

The re-orientation of the cricket square has begun and completion is anticipated by the end of 2014 when the new square will be complete and playable for the 2015 season.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome our new Assistant Clerk- Lisa Underwood, who has settled into her role extremely well. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors and my Parish Clerk, Sarah Norman for all their help and support over the past year.

Ray Quested  
Chairman of the Council

## **PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

As part of our data gathering for the Neighbourhood Plan, areas that should be of concern have been highlighted such as our elderly population. The number of over 65's will rise from the current figure of 1 person in 5 to 1 in 3 by 2031. At the same time, the overall population in the village is projected to increase by 20%. These two increases result in around 800 more people aged over 65 in the village by 2031. Nationally, this age group is dominated by individuals with an income of less than £10,000 per annum. Although Pulborough is probably better off than the national average, it may not be by that much. So, the majority of our over 65's are unlikely to be able to afford services that cost much more than the minimum wage, and with continuing cutbacks in government services it is likely that more services will be privately, rather than state provided. A key question for the neighbourhood plan is what we can do locally to ensure that our aging population is supported sufficiently well.

Although Pulborough is undoubtedly a very good place to live, we are also seeing some significant issues arising with our service infrastructure such as the poorly maintained ditches which can result in flooding, the lack of bus services for commuters working a 9am to 5pm day and the ever increasing use of our local roads by vehicles, especially HGV's which directly impacts on air quality and safety. So, rather than report on historic planning decisions, I have used this report to seek to make you think about the future of Pulborough, and your thoughts and help will be most welcome as we continue to develop our neighbourhood plan over the next year or two.

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

Your committee needs to thank all those who have struggled to keep our recreational choices available in the wettest winter ever! Football fixtures practice sessions were often cancelled. The committee arranged that the all-weather pitch be available at a reduced rent, but as other clubs in the Leagues also had difficulties, any good position in the League tables has been cancelled out. The storms in the New Year devastated a few sheds on the allotments, but our groundsman soon restored order and spring sowing is in full swing. Thank you Fred.

Pocket park was given a tidy up but a return visit is planned soon. It is not a good use of time to be clearing up multitudes of cans and crisp packets! Please enjoy this pleasant area but take your litter home. In the autumn we did battle with the inappropriate seedlings on Nutbourne Common. A lot of useful cutting and stacking was done to ensure the environment was also a pleasure to wild life. Thanks go to the lovely lady who made us tea and the local people who came to help. Next time perhaps there will be more workers from the area.

We have had pleasure in being involved in the creation of a new Memorial Garden from the car park down to the Library. Design of the central feature was inspired by young students. The creative efforts of St Mary's pupils will be unveiled in August. This will add greatly to the appearance of that area. Initiated by Cllr Martin Dale, it has involved all committees and been great fun to put together. Sorry, nothing to see yet, but blink and you could miss the transformation to be officially opened this summer. We move fast on Rec and Open!

## **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 income for the year ended 31st March 2014 increased in monetary terms from £164,723 to £172,047 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 2013-2014 was 5.5% 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). Grants secured were down from £24,869 to £20,518 this year and staff costs saw a reduction of 3.74% this year from £65,192 to £62,753. As this was due to a member of staff resigning, this is not expected to be repeated in 2014-2015, as we replaced this member of staff after some time. The surplus generated this year went to increase overall reserves and increase earmarked funds to serve as the base funding for future projects. Some expenditure planned in 2013-2014 could not be carried out, and has been carried over and is planned for 2014-2015.

The funding of the youth worker on a shared with BPC has been a success with high levels of satisfaction. The project work associated with the refurbishment of the Sports and Social Pavilion has continued, albeit slowly, this year, as we proceed to finalisation of costs and funding. The council was still awaiting a response from HDC as to whether it would support the project with funding or not at the financial year end. Allocated reserves at the yearend of £102,307.33 (64.3%) are earmarked for this project out of a total of £159,044.56. 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 once the Sports Pavilion refurbishment is completed. . We have set aside so far a sum of £34,060.54 (21.41%) towards this project. Another project the Council has decided to support and started planning for is a replacement Youth Club. As the lease on the present building has not been renewed and will lapse in 2022, a replacement is needed.

# SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(Awaiting Audit)

Current Yr ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013		Current Yr ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014
164,723	<b>Income Summary</b>	
	Precept	172,047
<b>164,723</b>	Sub Total	<b>172,047</b>
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
382	Administration	365
0	Capital	0
875	Loans and Finance	422
2,519	MSF	2,342
6,310	Discretionary	5,441
0	Highways	0
1,126	Allotments	1,428
2,929	Bowling Club	0
0	Pavilion	0
10,729	Other Recreation	10,521
<b>189,592</b>	Total Income	<b>192,565</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
14,496	Administration	13,521
904	Advertising & Publicity	277
0	Capital	0
0	Loans and Finance	0
54	MSF	15
65,192	Staff Costs	62,753
38,952	Discretionary	19,251
4,950	Highways	4,273
3,705	Street Lighting	4,846
1,795	Allotments	811
3,584	Bowling Club	310
1,653	Grounds Maintenance	4,503
12,661	Pavilion	9,597
20,037	Other Recreation	25,127
<b>167,983</b>	Total Expenditure	<b>145,283</b>
	<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
198,660	Opening Balance	220,269
189,592	Plus : Income for Year	192,565
<b>388,252</b>		<b>412,834</b>
167,983	Less : Expenditure	145,283
<b>0</b>	Transfers TO/FROM Reserves	<b>0</b>
<b>220,269</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>267,551</b>

# COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Mr Ray Quersted	“Greenford”, Batts Lane, Pulborough, RH20 2ED Email: <a href="mailto:ray@eyeleveldesign.co.uk">ray@eyeleveldesign.co.uk</a> Tel : 01798 874283	Finance & Policy Committee Ex Officio All Other Committees
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## OFFICERS

**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**                      **Mrs Sarah Norman**

**ASSISTANT CLERK**                              Mrs Lisa Underwood

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