

LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW 2008

Welcome to this quick look at the work of Lighthorne Parish Council over the last year. If you've any questions about what's in this newsletter, or anything else about the work of the Council, you'll find a contact list on the back page.

The Parish Council holds its meetings at 8pm on the second Wednesday of every month in the village hall. Everyone is invited to come along and you will have the opportunity to speak during the meeting if you want to. A copy of the minutes is placed in the Post Office.

Farewell and Welcome

Cllr Lloyd resigned before the election in May. Our thanks go to him for all his efforts whilst on the Council. Other members were returned unopposed. The Parish Council exercised its power of co-optation and Peter Stephenson joined the Council in May.

What has been happening in the village?

The Notice Board: A new notice board has been erected on the green by the bus shelter. It was funded by the Council and monies raised from the millennium celebrations. The new board allows residents to place notices in a weatherproof section, with lockable sections for parish and village notices. (If you wish to place a notice in the latter section, please contact the Clerk).

The board is made from English oak with an oak tree being planted by the Woodland Trust on our behalf. The old board has been

refurbished and will be erected at the Sports Ground.

Roads: We successfully lobbied Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Highways to install more drains in the village roads to help reduce the chance of flooding after heavy rain. They also agreed to resurface the third side of the green between Chesterton Road and Old School Lane. They will continue to monitor the state of The Bank.

We also succeeded in gaining their agreement to extend the 30mph speed limit from Church Lane out past the houses in Moreton Morrell Lane.

Parish Plan: Under national planning policy, towns and villages can now prepare their own 'Parish Plan' which, when adopted by the district council, gives a community a greater say in how its needs will be met. We have agreed that Lighthorne should develop its own Parish Plan for adoption by Stratford on Avon District Council (SDC).

Your Parish Council feels that such a plan should be led by the community, and not directly by the Parish Council. Several residents have already offered their help and we are planning to start work in the autumn. If you would like to be involved please let Cllr Stephenson or any of your councillors know.

Lighthorne Sports Association: The Sports Association was wound up last year with the funds being passed to the Parish Council. We should like to thank both Gordon and Chris Wild for all their hard work over the years. It is much appreciated.

The Parish Council is keen to see greater use of the site. Khalsa Cricket Club uses the ground nearly every week during the season. They are a successful club and are keen to attract new players of all ages from the area. They also run training sessions for young boys and girls. Details can be obtained from the Clerk.

The ground was also used for several community events, including the six-a-side cricket match and the village fireworks. The Parish Council donated a winner's shield for the cricket competition and, along with other groups and individuals, made a donation to the village fireworks. Both were very successful and hopefully will become regular annual events.

The Tennis Club would also like to attract new members. Please contact Rosanne Mann for further details on 651516.

Following a break-in in October 2006 the pavilion has been repaired and a CCTV camera and notices stating no alcohol etc is stored on the premises have been installed.

A new water main direct from the road has been installed. This replaces the old main which ran across the fields from Old School Lane and had been the subject of a recent major leak.

Allotments: If you have visited the Sports Ground recently you will have noticed that the allotments are up and running and looking very productive. If you would like an allotment, please contact Ed Stroud on 651200 or Martin Preedy on 650333.

Post Office Closure: You will no doubt have heard news of the closure of post offices around the country. Thankfully, our post office is not due for closure. The Parish Council recognises the importance of this facility and so provides the funding for the hire of the village hall for this use.

Telephone Box: BT has announced that we are to lose the telephone box in the village. The Parish Council will make representation to the appropriate authorities.

Annual Parish Meeting 2008: This took place in April and was well supported. The topic was the new recycling arrangements (see details below). This meeting is an opportunity for residents to exchange ideas and raise issues. If you have any ideas for next year's meeting, please contact the Clerk or any councillor.

Refuse collection: You may have seen details around the village or in the local press that a new scheme is to be introduced shortly. This will involve two extra wheelie bins, one for dry recyclables and one for non-recyclable refuse.

Following a lively discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, the Council has raised several concerns about the new scheme with SDC. A survey will be forwarded shortly to every household. Can we please ask you to complete and return it to the Clerk at Smithy Cottage or to any councillor. We hope that we will be able to address residents' concerns about storage, size and visual impact on the environment. SDC are keen to work with the Council on this issue. Hopefully, together we can recycle more.

Flood Prevention: It is almost a year since the last time that the village flooded. A survey of the culvert which takes the Washbrook underground through the village showed that it is in relatively good condition. WCC has informed us that, where the culvert lies on private land, the owner of that land is responsible for its maintenance. The Council has devised a scheme that has the support of WCC and SDC and will hopefully prevent the flooding of houses in Church Lane. We have applied for a grant that will allow this scheme to be implemented. If there are any other issues regarding flooding, please let the Council know.

SDC has also asked us to remind landowners of their responsibility for clearing and maintaining ditches to prevent flooding. This is very relevant when there is significant run-off from fields, such as affects properties on Moreton Morrell Lane.

Footpaths: Cllr Hill has been investigating the state of the footpaths and stiles in the parish. Please contact Cllr Hill if you have any concerns over footpaths or bridleways in the parish.

Street lighting: We will shortly be carrying out a survey to discover what residents feel about the type of lighting that we have in the village as well as its duration at night. Many of the lamp posts are old and in poor condition. The aim is to gradually replace them with more environmentally friendly and visually attractive ones. Contact Cllr Lewis for more details.

Parking and Verges: We receive more complaints about inconsiderate parking and damage to verges than anything else.

We all know that our village was designed before the advent of cars. We would ask residents to park with consideration for pedestrians. Many of the verges in the village have been damaged by heavy vehicles and, when we can, the Council has asked companies to repair the damage. However, in some areas verges have been eroded by poor parking. Please help us to maintain the attractive nature of the village by not parking in a manner that damages the verges.

Conservation Area: Much of the village lies within the conservation area. Information on the responsibilities of home owners in such an area can be obtained from the Clerk or SDC. There is also information on the notice board and in the post office.

Planning Applications: All planning applications are available for inspection by contacting the Clerk.

Summary of Finances 2007/08

Our 2006/07 accounts passed audit without qualification. Our 2007/08 accounts have been passed by the internal auditor and are now with the external auditor. Having maintained the precept at £9000 for two years, it was necessary to increase the precept for 2008/9 to £9500. This was to cover

inflationary increases, but in the main, to recognise the off-loading of election costs from SDC to individual parishes. This year's uncontested election in May cost the parish £100. The summary of the accounts (below) shows you how the money was spent and compares what we did to last year:

	2006/07	2007/08
We received:		
Precept (Council Tax)	£9,000	£9,000
Interest on Investments	£391	£451
Grass-cutting (SDC)	£299	-
Sports Ground	-	£525
Transfer of Sports Association Funds	-	£2,066
Insurance Claim	-	£3,694
Donations / Awards	£509	£589
	<u>£10,199</u>	<u>£16,325</u>

We spent:		
Administration	£1,769	£1,666
Post Office	£615	£635
Insurance	£1,526	£1,584
Grass-cutting	£3,529	£3,150
Street Lighting	£301	£301
Repairs / Maintenance	£12	£200
Sports Ground	£425	£5,669
Grants / Donations	£635	£656
Notice Board	-	£1,499
	<u>£8,812</u>	<u>£15,360</u>
Underspend / (Overspend):	<u>£1,387</u>	<u>£965</u>

The biggest changes to payments this year were due to the setting up of the allotments, installing the new water main and meter, the new notice board and the insurance claim for the burglary damage at the Sports Ground.

On the income side, monies were received from the Sports Association, income from hire of the Sports Ground and the Millennium Celebrations donation towards the new notice board of £589.48.

A full set of accounts is available for inspection by contacting the Clerk.

Future Plans

Protecting the Green: We are looking at placing small wooden posts or trees along the

section of registered Village Green by the bus shelter in order to prevent vehicles driving over this area and causing damage to the Green and to underground pipework in this area. There is also a similar problem by The Broadwell where there is a very large underground water tank.

Street Lighting: We hope to be able to introduce new lighting schemes to the village (see item on this subject, above), subject to the results of consultation.

Can We Improve?

Please let us know your views. We are keen to encourage greater public participation. Your councillors are keen to hear from you !!

What's Going On in the Village?

- ✓ Lunch in the Village Hall, last Wednesday in the month, 12.30 to 1.30pm
- ✓ Film Club in the Village Hall

- ✓ Live and Local in the Village Hall
- ✓ Arts and Craft Weekend in St Laurence Church, 8th/9th August
- ✓ Harvest Supper in the Village Hall, 17th September
- ✓ Village Show in the Village Hall, 27th September
- ✓ Autumn All Weather Ramble and Brunch
- ✓ History Society talks in the Village Hall
- ✓ Village Fireworks at the Sports Ground
- ✓ Drama Group production of *Daisy Pulls it Off* in the Village Hall, December 4th, 5th & 6th
- ✓ Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall

Further information is available at www.lighthorneonline.com

LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS

Who are the Parish Council?

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For Parish Council information on the web visit www.lighthorneonline.com/PCHome.htm

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