

Lyonshall Annual Parish Meeting
10th May 2018, 7.15pm in the Memorial hall, Lyonshall
Reports

Parish Council Chairman Report – Cllr Paul Avery

The last 12 months have been most notable for the passing of two people who did so much for the Parish in their lives. I refer to Wiz and Ron Addis.

Both Wiz and Ron just got on with whatever they saw was required in a quiet and unassuming way. They were always there and things just seemed to get done. Of course, in reality things do not just get done by themselves but they are done by generous and thoughtful people in the Parish. Ron and Wiz were two outstanding examples of such people. They will not be forgotten and time will remind us of just how much they quietly did and sorted out.

We had three resignations from the Parish Council during the year from people who had all made a strong contribution to the Parish. Derek and Jimmy both moved out of the Parish into pastures new and annoyingly seem to be enjoying themselves! We also lost Jean who retired for health reasons but still retains a strong interest in the business of the PC. I would like to thank them all for contribution to the Parish Council.

We were able to attract two very good candidates in Darren and Chris who have hit the road running and have been helpful from the start. Thank you both.

During the year we have dealt with a large number of varied planning applications. It is often difficult to see that our comments have made much of a difference or in some cases have had any impact at all but that seems to be life in the land of planning. Hopefully once the NDP is completed we will have more impact.

However on the largest and most important application we worked with our ward councillor and had various meetings with the planners including a cabinet member and there we saw the fruits of our labour when finally the plans for the pub were finally passed albeit with a number of conditions. I feel that we had an impact here and played an important part in gaining that approval with detailed public consultations and working with Roger.

Other items which people may have noticed included the planting of daffodils around the village to cheer the arrival of Spring. We also joined the ‘Stop the Drop’ campaign and had yet another successful litter pick. I would like to thank all the people who turned out to help. It really does make a visible difference to the Parish.

We had another pop-up pub recently which was well attended and left a few sore heads the following morning! We will continue with events which brings the community together and are always willing to listen to suggestions and any offers of help.

We are working on implementing the dreaded Data Protection Act or as I prefer to call it the latest and greatest civil service job creation scheme yet devised and can be certainly be described as a stupendously large sledgehammer to crack a peanut. It is probably better that I do not say any more on this subject.

Ward Councillor Report – Cllr Roger Phillips.

The austerity period in public services continues to impact on the delivery of council services together with the rising pressures of adult and children`s care. Since 2010 Herefordshire Council has had to make £67 million worth of savings with huge impact on all services particularly non-statutory. The Government uplifted council tax increases for councils with care responsibilities in the autumn and Herefordshire increased their level to 4.9% (5.9% was maximum permitted).

The Council set a balanced budget of £144 million for 2018/19 This will be funded by

Council tax	£ 99 million	(£93 million in 2017/18	£89m in 2016/17).
Business rates	£33 million	(£32.5 million in 2017/18	£30m in 16/17).
Government grants	£12 million	(£19 million in 2017/18	£27m in 16/17).

In 2017/18 £75 million was spent on 3,500 people. These people have high care and complex needs and the council has a statutory obligation to meet their needs. I am representing the Council on

working parties submitting evidence to Government on the new formula for funding local authorities including the sparsely populated councils which help gains us an extra one million in grant for this year.

Herefordshire has over 2,000 miles of roads and their maintenance and condition is a concern particularly after the long wet and cold winter we have had. Balfour have had difficulty in dealing with the potholes since the new year and on behalf of residents I have raised many issues with them and our commissioning team. The budget for next year sees 27 million identified for Balfour contract with 4.7 million for the A44 highway corridor. I have secured some resurfacing for my ward including Shobdon and Titley, and will continue to lobby for more resurfacing, better practice and outcomes. Other ongoing highway issues include Titley 30 mph, Lawton crossroads redesign, Royal George corner, drainage issues at Bircher and Rhyse lane, Pembridge 20mph, Golden cross junction, speed limit on A44 Monkland to Hardwick, Pembridge entrances, and Shobdon pedestrian crossing.

In August I invited my parish Councillors to a visit to the quarry to question Tarmac and learn more of their operation. I maintain contact with major HGV companies and contributed to the Local Enterprise Partnership HGV consultation and an upcoming review of traffic in North Herefordshire. I enclose the Traffic figures via the grey boxes which have been monitored since I had them installed in 2005. I report the October traffic numbers, types and speeds to Parish Councils.

The 2017 October traffic figures over a month period was

Shobdon 4,602 vehicles per day with 20.5% (944) being larger vehicles

Eardisley 4,222 vehicles per day with 24% (1011)

Pembridge 2,851 vehicles per day with 26% (740)

*Lyonshall 2,457 vehicles per day with 9% (223) *

The 2006 October traffic levels taken on average over four months

Shobdon 4,425 vehicles per day with 19% (841) being larger vehicles

Eardisley 4,271 vehicles per day with 19% (811)

Pembridge. 2,332 vehicles per day with 19% (443)

Lyonshall. 2,056 vehicles per day with 17% (350)

This year saw the consultation on the option routes for the Hereford Bypass from A465 to A49. The preferred route will be identified this summer and I will work strongly to support its building. We cannot afford to make the mistake of thirty years ago again. When you see the Newbridge on wye and Newtown Bypasses it beggar's belief that Hereford, Leominster and Pembridge still suffer like we do.

All the Parishes have or are involved with Neighbourhood planning. Eardisland NP has been adopted, Pembridge and Shobdon are reaching regulation 14, with Lyonshall and Titley following. These plans once adopted in conjunction with National Planning Policy Framework and Herefordshire Core strategy form the basis of all planning decisions. Herefordshire has the highest proportion of NP in any English county. I recognise the huge amount of work undertaken by all those involved in the preparation of these plans.

I have regularly attended Parish council meetings and many other events in my ward throughout the year. I arranged two meetings for the Parish Clerks, our Balfour steward and planning officers. I send out monthly updates to my email contacts

in the eight parishes and have to react to the new data regulations with the support of the Council's monitoring officers.

This year saw the Council consult on the expansion of the travellers site of which the parish councils were very supportive. We secured the sealing of entrances from the site onto the Kingspan access road on safety grounds.

Shobdon and Luston Primary schools now have a joint arrangement sharing a headmistress and they and Pembridge are enjoying high standards of education and increased attendance and deserve the community's support.

This year saw our CSO team move away or in Dick Alford's case retire. I am pleased to report that two new CSOs are being trained to take over the patch and starting from mid-May.

Can I thank all those of you who have supported me during the past 12 months, including Chairs and Clerks. I continue to do my best to work on your behalf for the residents and business of the Arrow ward and Herefordshire in these very challenging times.

Police Report

CSO Steph Annette introduced herself, who is a temporary after PC Allford retired after 42 years of service. There will be two new Community Support Officers joining Kington shortly and CSO Annette is helping them to settle before moving on. PC Dean Wall hopes to regularly attend meetings and the PACT surgeries. There were no significant crimes in the Lyonshall areas to report. CSO Annette urged parishioners to contact them for minor concerns on 101 and emergencies dial 999 and an officer would attend as soon as they could.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – Paul Avery (Chairman)

I am pleased to say that the NDP is proceeding well. We have cracked the bulk of our work and we expect to be able to go to regulation 14 which is a material step in the process in June. We are seeking to produce a short and simple document that is user friendly for the planners and reflects accurately the desires of the Parish expressed in the many consultations. Everything in the plan must be justified from the consultation results and will ultimately be examined by an independent inspector and will come back to the electors a couple of times before it can come into force.

Footpath Report – Cllr Richard Oliver

During the year I have walked or run along all of the footpath network in the parish with the exception of the furthest reaches of LZ14 and LZ3 at the northern and southern extents of the parish which I plan to inspect in the coming weeks. The footpath network of Lyonshall is generally well maintained and many of the missing or damaged way markers/signposts have been replaced during the year. During the adverse weather of the winter a small number of paths were temporarily blocked by fallen trees or boughs which were cleared in a timely manner by the Lengthsman. In fields crossed by paths, the summer crops are now in, or approaching, full growth and will need to be monitored to ensure continued passage. Credit for the current state of the styles and gates along the network must go to the excellent workmanship of the Parish Lengthsman, Shaun Price; I would, therefore, strongly support the Parish Council maintaining the financial support of this service. Having used footpaths in other areas of the county and other counties in the UK, Lyonshall should be proud of its impressive foot path network.

Lengthsman Report

General

Shaun Price has been working for us for all 2017/18 and is efficient and helpful provided an excellent service Thank you Shaun it is a pleasure working with you.

Mowing and Vegetation Clearing

The grass areas opposite the church and by the bus stop at Holme Marsh have been part of the scheme for many years and continued this year. This year the PC also arranged regular mowing to keep the parish looking tidy at the roundabout in The Close, the green area in Burgage Close due to the gradual reduction in mowing by Balfour Beatty on behalf of Herefordshire Council. Roadside vegetation has been cut back where necessary and pedestrian safe havens created.

Maintenance

Road & street signs cleaned.

Footways cleared of overgrowth & debris.

Overflows, gullies, grips & ditches monitored & cleared.

Grit bins checked & maintained. Sandbags monitored.

Grit spread but not nearly as much as in other years because of the mild weather.

Footpaths

Footpaths have been combined into an enhanced lengthsman scheme. Work carried out includes – Many fingerposts repaired or replaced.

Stiles repaired.

Paths cleared of overgrowth.

5 stiles have been replaced by gates with co-operation from landowners which is much appreciated.

A total of £1130 has been spent on lengthsman work for 2017/18 claiming £373.08 from the maximum grant of £666.00. Match funded claims are 33% of spend.

The Future

This is the last year of the grant funded lengthsman scheme. Parish Councils in the scheme are given a grant to carry out local works on behalf of Herefordshire Council who are responsible for the maintenance. PC are required to purchase all materials but the P3 grant is still in place for 2017-18 on a 66% match funding basis, The footpath grant available at £50 per kilometre, times 27.4km, totals £1,370.

Thanks to Cllr Richard Oliver who acted as footpaths officer and to local residents for providing information.

Playgroup Report

Continuing on from our previous review the 6 regular members have now formed a committee and after having meetings have a lot of plans in place to improve the group and ensure that we are providing for everyone. We have a craft planner now who has planned excellent crafts around events and themes and every week there is an activity or messy play session. As summer is approaching we also have plans to have a couple of days out. We have purchased a new notice board for the hall, changing table, storage shelves with a view to buying more - this is for the aim of sorting out our storage cupboard and ensuring that the toys are stored cleanly and are able to be accessed easily. Posters have been designed and are going to be distributed around the local places e.g the local park which will hopefully encourage more people to come to our group and ensure the continuation of the group - we are hopefully going to buy a playpen which will segregate the babies away from the toddlers to ensure everyone can enjoy the group safely. The attendance numbers fluctuate from week to week, but we believe this is the same for every tots group, overall though we have a good attendance most weeks. We thank you for your continued support and are looking forward to the year ahead

Memorial Hall Report – Kathy Thompson (Chair)

The Memorial Hall remains an important asset to the community in Lyonshall, particularly with the long-term closure of the Royal George Pub.

It enjoys regular use by groups including Mums and Tots, Upholstery Class, Bridge Club and Tai Chi. It also hosts regular Coffee Mornings, PCC and Parish Council meetings, Private parties, and Wedding and Funeral receptions at an affordable cost to all.

The contributions made by the users of the facilities enable the Memorial Hall to be self-financing, with a moderate end of year balance account of around £2,500 in 2017.

Management costs continue to be kept to a minimum by Trustees volunteering to cover routine tasks such as booking management, cleaning and maintenance.

The Trustees have identified the importance of making the facilities attractive to existing and new potential users of the Hall to protect and secure its future, so we plan to undertake a programme of refurbishment over the next few years, dependent on levels of funds secured.

In November 2017 we succeeded in securing backing from the Kington Cooperative Community Fund, being one of three local charities to benefit. We are now embarking on a number of fundraisers during 2018 to reinforce funds available.

With these funds we will start with a complete repaint of the Hall to refresh the interior. Our next concern is the deteriorating floor. Once we have sufficient funds, we are hoping to involve the whole community and harness a local workforce with diverse talents and skills to help renovate the Hall.

As the Memorial Hall was built to commemorate the fallen from the Parish during the Great War, we plan to celebrate this anniversary year of 2018 and embrace this place of history in our Village.

Mayfield Charity – Chris Smith. A quick update as 2 of the trustees have died in the last couple of years. The Charity of Richard Mayfield consists of investments of c£1.7k, invested in Charibond Accumulation units. This quietly increases in value by approx 3 - 4 % p.a. normally. There are no activities - it is to all intents and purposes dormant. No income or expenditure for several years.

There are two current trustees, P Burgoyne, & CHES.

It originated from several wills starting in about 1728. Its purpose is the relief of poverty in Lyonshall (not a huge amount of that is obvious today).

Its charity returns are kept up to date see

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityFramework.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=229521&SubsidiaryNumber=0>.

Charity No 229521.