

*Stottesdon and Sidbury
Parish Council*



Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 20th April 2009 7.30pm

*to be held at
Willowdene Farm
Rehabilitation & Training Centre
Chorley*

All parishioners welcome

*Newsletter
Spring 2009*

Dear Parishioners

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

I think that I can justify claiming that the last year has been a highly successful one for your Parish Council. It has seen the maturity of a number of important projects which we have strived for over a number of years.

Freda, our clerk, achieved her CILCA qualification in 2008 which involved an immense amount of hard work. It was the one missing element needed for our long held ambition to become a 'Quality Council' which we then applied for and achieved.

Last autumn saw the start of the building in Chorley of our six new affordable houses for local people. They will be ready for occupation this summer and great credit goes to Rosemary Abbiss and Madge Shineton for bringing this about through the Shropshire Rural Housing Association.

Another major project completed during the year was Glebe Drive Parking to reduce congestion and make school set down/pickup times very much safer. It became all the more urgent after the very successful Playgroup was encompassed into the school after many years meeting in Chorley Village Hall. This parking will also be an asset to the parish whenever there is a major function in the village. We are very grateful to Shropshire County Council both for their assistance in this project and for its completion with minimum disruption. They were also most helpful over the temporary construction to allow Winterburn Bridge to be reopened.

The icing on the year's cake must surely be winning of the Jan Snell Award (shield will be on display at Annual Parish meeting). To win this we had to demonstrate that we had achieved 'something special' over the year and I believe this award justifies my opening remarks.

As Chairman I am very lucky to have such an experienced and hard working Clerk as well as the wide range of experience, expertise and knowledge of your councillors. I am also fortunate that we seem to be able to conduct our business in a friendly and co-operative manner and I am extremely grateful to them.

Looking forward, Unitary is now upon us and there will be an election for the new Shropshire Council on 4th June. We will be part of a 2 councillor ward based on Cleobury Mortimer. During the deliberations of the Boundary Commission we have always supported this solution, as the benefits of being an active part of Cleobury Country have already been seen. I am afraid that you will not get a chance to vote out your Parish Council until 2013 - that is not of our choosing but at least saves on election expenses!

On the subject of expenses we have tried very hard to keep the increase in our precept down to the minimum.. Unfortunately HMRC has imposed a new system of managing employees salaries which has increased our wage bill by 50%. In the January newsletter we set out a full account of how we set our budget and precept.

It is worth noting that all the projects I have mentioned arose directly from our Parish Plan completed four years ago when we asked you, our electors, what you wanted. That is now virtually 100% successfully completed. This compares rather favourably with some councils who have yet to start a Parish Plan! Once Unitary has settled down and we can see which way the financial winds (or storms!) will blow we intend to revisit the Parish Plan process to establish a new 'wish list' which we can then cost and prioritise

Finally I would to thank Freda and all members of your Parish Council for their hard work and the achievements over the past year. We are here to maintain and enhance the parish and serve you so if you have any problems or worries please contact any one of us.

Yours sincerely



Brian Hamilton-Russell
Chairman

Annual Parish meeting:

The Parish Council are extremely grateful for Willowdene Farm Rehabilitation and Training Centre for agreeing to the use of one of their rooms to hold our Annual Parish Meeting for this year. Dr Matthew Home will give a short presentation of the work carried out at the Centre and hopefully with time permitting will show anyone around the facilities they have.

We do hope that you will come along and support our meeting and also to have an insight into this facility right on our doorstep!

Stottesdon Church Photographic Competition:

This event will take place at the Church Fete on Friday 10th July 2009. The theme this year will be 'Transport' - your picture must contain some form of transport from any era, either in black and white or, not be greater than 8"x6" and unframed.

Please hand your photographs to Derek Overton at Clapwicket, Stottesdon or any P.C.C.

Member by Wednesday 8th July, together with your fee of £1 per picture.

There will be two sections: 1) Adults and 2) children under 14 years. Prizes will be awarded as judged the best in each section. The judges decision will be final.

Last years event proved very popular with the visitors to the fete and also gave a good donation to Church Funds. So get snapping with your camera!!!

It would be nice if the photographs this year are left on display over the Saturday and Sunday for people to enjoy when visiting the Church. Arrangements can be made for the return of your photographs

Parish Council Clerk:

The Clerk, Mrs Freda Morris, deals with all correspondence, accounts and day to day problems on behalf of the Parish Council.

When complaints are received the Clerk deals with these in several ways i.e.

- Complaints regarding roads, potholes, overhanging trees, road gritting etc - these are reported immediately to the Highways Department of Shropshire County Council.
- Queries of any other nature and information requests are investigated by the Clerk and reported back to whoever raised the query as soon as possible.

All actions by the Clerk are quite often reported by email to all Councillors and then to the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk takes instructions from the full Council, not any individual Councillor, and all correspondence the Clerk sends out, although signed by her, has been discussed and agreed by the full Council.

The Parish Council has a very good working relationship with the County Council and if you have any query regarding the roads do not hesitate to contact the Clerk - if she knows the answer she will tell you straight away if not she will find out and report back to you as soon as possible!

The Clerk and Councillors attend training sessions on a regular basis on various topics, i.e. Planning, Power of Well Being, HM Revenue and Customs, Code of Conduct, Accounts and Audit, Recruitment and Selection, Community Engagement to name but a few in order to keep up to date with any change in legislation etc.

Grants:

Each year the Parish Council precepts an amount of money which is available for distribution to groups in the parish or to any organisation which benefits the Parish. This year we have supported Severn Hospice, Hope House Children's Hospice, Severn Centre, Samaritans and Citizens Advice Bureau. We have a criteria which has to be satisfied and this will be published on the updated website.

Parish Council website:

The Clerk is in the process of updating the website and once finished you will be able to view the previous 4 months minutes (once approved by full Council), newsletters, accounts etc. The Clerk is the 'Proper Officer of the Council' and holds the official signed minutes and all other documents. If you would like to see any documents not on the website please contact the Clerk who will be more than happy to make a convenient appointment.

Nightingale Nursing Fund:

The Annual General Meeting of the Nightingale Nursing Fund is to be held on Wednesday 29th April at the Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, starting at 5.00 p.m.

This is an open invitation to anyone who is a patient of the Doctors practices of Ditton Priors, Cleobury Mortimer and Highley to attend.

If you wish to hear more about this valuable fund and how it is administered please feel free to attend.

Overgrown trees and hedges:

Can we please ask once again for all landowners to check overgrown trees and hedges particularly on the roadside. The Parish Council are still actively trying to get Walton Bank hedge cut back and reduced in height but unfortunately we are getting no response from the landowner. This matter has once again been passed to Shropshire County Council.

Brookmeeting Bridge:

Many thanks to everyone for being patient during the repairs to the abutments of the bridge. The Parish Council were extremely grateful to Shropshire County Council for completing this week earlier than first anticipated and for taking the opportunity whilst the road was closed to repair the section of road which was subsiding very badly.

District Councillor Madge Shineton:

Parish Councillors received the last report from District Cllr Madge Shineton at their parish council meeting last week and the chairman presented Madge with a plant to nurture! Madge has been our District Councillor for the last 10 years and has worked tirelessly for the Parish on numerous projects especially health, affordable housing and transport. Madge has represented the District Council at many committee meetings and seminars and has had a wealth of information and knowledge to pass onto the Parish Council. Madge has been invited by the Parish Council to give a final report to you the parishioners at the Annual Parish meeting. We are extremely lucky that we will not be losing Madge as she had a dual role with us as Parish and District Councillor.

Urgent

Last chance to apply to Shropshire Rural Housing Association
for one of the new houses at Chorley!!

If you or a member of your family are in need of accommodation in this Parish - have you applied for one of the new houses being built in Chorley? Interviews will start immediately after Easter. In order to comply with the Planning permission the applicants must have a strong connection with the parish i.e. live or work in the parish or have close family members living in the area or an adjoining parish. These homes are due to be completed sometime in June. Application forms are available from the Clerk 718453 or Rosemary Abbiss 718210 or on the Shropshire Rural Housing Association web site www.shropshirerural.co.uk or from the office 01743 874848. Apply as soon as possible to ensure consideration.

**This is a copy of the statement of accounts for year ending 31st March 2008
as audited by Mazars LLP.**

	Year ending 31/3/07 £	Year ending 31/03/008 £
1. Balances brought f/wd	6206.49	7837.99
2. (+) Annual precept	7800.00	9337.00
3. (+) Total other receipts	2142.89	1624.53
4. (-) Staff costs	5605.94	5169.80
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	nil	Nil
6. (-) Total other payments	2705.45	4158.11
7. (=) Balances carried forward	7837.99	9471.61
8. Total cash and short term investments	7837.99	9471.61
9. Total fixed assets and long term assets	1226.00	1960.61
10. Total borrowings	nil	nil
11. Trust funds disclosure note	No	No

The Parish Council are extremely grateful to Mrs Val Hill for carrying out the Internal Audit.

Road Closure

Unfortunately there is to be another road closure in Chorley. This will commence on Monday 20th April 2009 from 9.00am-3.00pm for 4 days in order for the sewerage to be laid to the 6 new houses.

Access will be restricted to pedestrians, dismounted cyclists and dismounted horseriders through the closure which is from Chorley Village Hall to The Duck Inn car park. The road will be open before and after these times. Can we please ask that everyone is patient during this temporary closure, which has been delayed due to the Brooksmeeting Bridge closure.

Friends of Stottesdon Primary School (FOSPS) News:

This year we are going to enter a team in this Bridgnorth Walk. Currently we have about 15 walkers willing to take up the challenge! As you may be aware, the walk takes place on Whitsun May Bank Holiday which this year is on Monday 25th May. We start in Bridgnorth High Street and then begin a gruelling 22 mile hike up and down the Brown Clee, returning to Bridgnorth. We would really appreciate your support.

Also, our fete this year is now taking place on **Friday 5th June at 6:00pm** in the grounds of Stottesdon C of E School and within our lovely school garden – weather permitting!!

We can already look forward to hearing a brilliant local Brass Band from The Bell Inn, Cleobury Mortimer and seeing a riveting performance from Severn Valley Karate Club. There will be numerous stalls and games including a tasty BBQ, Cakes and refreshments, a tombola, an extensive plant stall plus many more. There will also be attractions such as a Steam engine, Pony Rides and a Vintage Tractor to look forward to.

It would be great to see you there – a lovely family event!

Debris in the River Rea:

The Parish Council are extremely concerned regarding the amount of debris causing beaver dams in the River Rea which during heavy rain causes flooding. We have been looking into this problem for some time and it has been confirmed that whoever owns the land on either side of the river, where the debris gathers, is responsible for the removal of this. We are told that the Local Authority has the power to enforce the removal of such debris or remove it and re-charge the landowner. PLEASE help us all by removing any debris washed down which unfortunately may settle by land owned by you.

Speeding vehicles/Speed limit:

The Parish Council still receives regular complaints regarding vehicles speeding through our Parish. It is hoped that a 30mph speed limit will be implemented in Stottesdon very shortly, but can we please ask that you all **slow down** and consider other road users before there is a serious accident - please remember that our roads are very narrow. The Police are aware of the problems in the Parish.

The map showing the proposed speed limit area will be on display at the Annual Parish meeting for you to come along and make any comments regarding these proposals. A similar request has been made for Chorley but at present this is not included in the villages identified for speed limits - the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Can we also please ask that 'passing places' are used where possible as the road edges and verges have been severely damaged throughout the Parish.

Parish Council meeting dates:

April 20th - Annual Parish meeting

April 27th

May 18th - Annual Parish Council meeting

June 22nd

July 27th

August 24th

September 28th

October 26th

November 23rd

December 21st

All meetings commence at 7.30pm and are normally held in Chorley Village Hall - posters are put on the notice board advertising the date of the meeting and venue together with an agenda of the business to be transacted. We hold 'parishioner's time' before every meeting open when you have the opportunity to raise any concerns/problems you might have with the Council, alternatively you can contact the Clerk or a Councillor.

Cleobury Country

Food & Ale Trail *Sunday May 24th*

Enjoy a 4 course meal as you stroll through 7½ miles of beautiful Cleobury Countryside

Start the trail between 11.00 and 11.30am
from Kinlet Hall (DY12 3AY) - **Parking free**

£15 adults, **£7.50** children (5-12) including souvenir tankard
and Evening entertainment (6-8.30pm)

For people not joining the trail, 'evening only' tickets are available at just **£4**

The Evening Entertainment features:

Steeple Morris*Country Dancing
Bell Inn Band*Singing with Reid Warblers

ALSO to buy... **Real Ale Bar with Hobson's Beer**
BBQ of local meats and filled Jacket Potatoes

Book online at www.cleoburycountry.com
and have your tickets and the information pack mailed to you.

Or buy your tickets at:

The Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer - from the Business Centre (weekday mornings)
or from our Visitor Information Point (weekend mornings from April 4th)

Please note:

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies contained in this publication. The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council.

If you would like this newsletter in a larger print format please contact the Clerk.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk can be contacted at all reasonable hours.

Mrs F Morris
18 Glebe Drive
Stottesdon
Kidderminster
DY14 8UF

Telephone number: 718453 (answerphone available)

Email - stottesdonpc@btinternet.com

Website: www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Mrs R Abbiss	718210	Mr B Hamilton-Russell	718577
Mr I Swain	718135	Mr P Martin	718419/718714
Mrs J Davies	718093	Mrs D Newsham	718223
Mr J Griffiths	718198	Mrs M Shineton	718427
Mrs R Griffiths	718256	Mrs D Walsh	718527

DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

District Councillor Madge Shineton	718427
County Councillor Peter Martin	718419/718714

Stottesdon School	718617
Chorley Family Playgroup	718769
Stottesdon/Sidbury Church	01746 862426 Rev Colin Resch
Chorley Village Hall	718593 (Mike Mooney - bookings)
Doctors	712672
District Nurses	711963
Bridgnorth District Council	713100
Shropshire County Council	08456 789018
Lacon Childe School	01299 270312
Bridgnorth Endowed School	762103
Social Car (Jenny Howes)	718675
WI (Jenny Everingham)	718219
Power Loss Helpline	08457 331331
Mobile Library	01584 813600
Crimestoppers	0900 555111
Rural Stress Network	024 7641 2916
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Shropshire Rural Housing	01743 874848
Severn Trent Water (Emergencies)	0800 7834444
Duck Inn	718267
Fighting Cocks	718270
Shropshire Registration Service	0845 6789016
Police	08457 444888

Tree Wardens:

Wade Muggleton (Stottesdon)	718753
Nathan Home (Chorley)	07966365157