



PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Volume 3 June 2007

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

At your Council's meeting held on Thursday 10th May elections of Office for the coming year were held. Councillor Mrs A J Geoghegan was elected as Chairman for a second term and Councillor Mrs I G A Ford now fills the position of Vice-Chairman. Councillor Mrs. Geoghegan was Chairman of the Parish Council last year and has served Penkridge Parish Council since May 2003. Councillor Mrs Ford has served the Parish Council for 17 years. Below is a shortened version of the Chairman's report at the Annual Parish Meeting which took place on 19th April 2007, a full report is available from the Haling Dene.

Penkridge Parish Council **Annual Parish Meeting - Chairman's Report**

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present this shortened report of the work of your Council during the past 12 months. The full report is available from Haling Dene Centre.

Village Issues

Doctor Margaret Jones was in attendance at the meeting and gave an up-date on the Medical Centre and answered any questions.

And now to other Council matters:-

The Precept

Council Tax affects all of us in some way or another and so through the various committees your Council has looked very carefully at its financial position. Therefore if you do not already know, Penkridge Parish Council's precept for the 4th year in succession remains static at £245,000. This is due to prudent management of Penkridge's own Chancellor of the Exchequer the PA—Mrs Lynne Hames. Many thanks Lynne.

Law And Order

During the last year a "new" group has been established in the village at the request of Inspector David Gains from Watling LPU. The group are called the Penkridge Neighbourhood Network or PNN for short and meets on a 6 weekly basis. It brings together a number of agencies and residents who together can identify crime and hopefully prioritise methods to resolve problems. The PNN is chaired by Vincent Brennan.

During the latter part of 2006 we welcomed our new PCSO Dell Slater who is making himself known in and around the village. Our Community beat bobby PC Roger Parry- Sargent has recently been replaced by PC Steve Prince. PC Prince won the award of the top policeman in Staffordshire in 2006 so we are happy to have him in Penkridge and welcome him to the patch. However we must not forget the work done by PC Roger Parry-Sargent in the 10 years he has been in the village, for which we thank him and we also wish him every success in his new post in the village of Featherstone .

In addition to Dell we have the support of 2 Special Constables - Andy Tunney and Fiona Love, both do invaluable voluntary work in our village particularly at the week-ends. I would like to publically thank them for their support and dedicated work.

Recently to assist the work of the Police in the village your Council has purchased 3 Flashcams. The Flashcams work on solar power so do not require an electrical connection, this makes them quite flexible and of course moveable. The Flashcams will be placed around the village in our "hot" spots. During the Summer months we trialled one of the cameras and know that they will add to the safety of our village members.

M6 Widening

Again this is a very important issue for the residents of Penkridge. There is a dedicated Transport Group which is discussing many traffic problems within the village and Councillor Peter Jones, who chairs the group, gave some background information and then took questions.

Now To Other Council Matters

During the past year due to the hard work of the PA Lynne Hames and all the staff, Penkridge Parish Council has achieved the Investors in People award. This award is ONLY presented to businesses who demonstrate commitment to their staff and their development. There is a rigorous scrutiny of the policies which are in place as well as individual interviews of selected employees. The triangular plaque which can be seen in the Reception area of the Haling Dene foyer was presented to the Council at a special ceremony held at the Moat House in Acton Trussell. Do have a look at it as you leave, we are very proud of Penkridge Parish Council's achievement so many congratulations to all who were and still are involved.

Cont...

Cont...

During the year there have been some changes in the house staff. Sheila Blower was appointed as Deputy Caretaker to Wendy Price and was later joined by Hilary Hancox, in the Autumn. Roy Manns joined us as our Handyman in May 2006.

I would like to thank Wendy and her team for their unstinting efforts in maintaining a very high level of care of this Grade II listed building

Also thanks go to Kerry who maintains the bar to a very high level and is always able to produce something "a little different" drinks wise, for that special occasion.

Community Involvement

Your Council interacts and supports the community of Penkridge in a number of ways.

Each year the Council budgets for and contributes to the Saturday morning swimming lessons, subsidises the summer holiday scheme and provides well maintained play areas.

Every year we support the Inter-Parish games and would like to express our thanks to Mr and Mrs Holmes for all their hard work in co-ordinating our entries again this year.

Each year the Council contributes to a number of competitions in the village. In June 2006 there was the Best Front Garden and Hanging Basket competition.

In addition there are other school based competitions such as the one for the Christmas motive which was won by Holly Brown from the Middle School. There is also an annual photographic competition which is organised by the Civic Society. This year the stunning photographs are on display in the Gaol.

As part of its involvement with the Community there are a number of other events which are organised by the Council usually during the summer months. This year there were two open air concerts and a circus for the children of the village. All of these events are supported by Penkridge W.I. which are much appreciated by all.

Your Council also supports a village web site. www.penkridge.org.uk. The site is looked after on a daily basis by Bevan Craddock, himself a councillor and also our Town Crier. It is a mine of information, dates of the council meetings, village events, photos of the Fun Run, Victorian Street Fayre etc. etc

The Council begins its Civic year with a service which is usually held at the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels. In 2006 the service was held on Sunday 2nd July and aimed to bring the different faiths of the village together. After the service the reception at Haling Dene included the presentation of the Civic Awards. This year the Senior Civic Award went to Peter Jones for his work with the Scouts, the Choir and the Church over many years. The Junior Civic Award was presented to Jane Green who works with a lively Guide pack The Civic reception was a pleasant, relaxed evening.

Later in November Councillors attended the annual Remembrance Day service at the Parish Church. This parade is efficiently organised every year by the British Legion Association, Penkridge branch. The wreath of poppies was laid on the Memorial by Vincent Brennan who was deputising for me as I was working in Hong Kong for a short while.

In Spring the Annual meeting between the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council took place and the two councils review matters of mutual interest and concern. Your Council assists St Michael's Church by way of a maintenance grant each year.

And the final committee (no pun intended!)

That of the Burial Ground. The Civil Burial ground was officially opened on the 30th April 2005 and is now fully operational. The Deputy PA Lesley Griffiths is the officer of the council who sympathetically deals with the relatives of the deceased at this sensitive time.

IN CONCLUSION - In concluding this report I wish to pay tribute to the many people who have contributed to making this Council's year successful. In particular I wish to thank my deputy Vincent Brennan for his unfailing support and good humour and for the work undertaken by all my fellow councillors in whatever capacity.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for attending. If you have any further questions we will do our best to answer them.

COMPETITIONS! COMPETITIONS! COMPETITIONS!

GARDENING

Nominations will be for:

- Best Traditional Front Garden
- Best Window Box/Hanging Baskets [at the front of properties]
- Best Allotment plots


Councillors will be walking around their Wards and putting nominations forward shortly.



Judging Date— 2nd & 3rd July

SCHOOL POSTER


This year's competition will involve the class as a whole and the children have been asked to compose a poem. The prize for the overall winning poem will be a trip to Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club.



PHOTOGRAPHY

This year's subject is in two sections

Adult Theme- Staffordshire Country Pubs/Inns
Junior Theme (up to 16 years old)
—A Family Day Out/Event



Prizes: Adult—Meal for two at The Boat
Junior—Family Day at Twycross Zoo
Closing Date—Friday 3rd August

* * * * *

INTER PARISH GAMES 2007

There is still time to represent Penkridge Parish in this year's Games. For further information please contact the Parish Representative on 01785 715439.

Full Council Meetings

Meetings of full Council are scheduled for:
14th June, 12th July and 13th September at 7.30 pm
at the Haling Dene Centre.
Parishioners are very welcome to attend.

West Midlands Gas Alliance

There are currently gas works being undertaken in the village [identified by the purple barriers]. The work will be on-going until approximately the end of August. There will be some road closures in Pinfold Lane, Station Road and St Michael's Close, suitable diversions will be put in place to cause minimum disruption. A plan of the work is available to view at the Haling Dene Centre between 9.00 am—1.00 pm and 2.00 pm—5.00 pm Monday to Friday
For further information please call the 24 hour Call Centre on 01902 826128

ADVANCE NOTICE
KIDS DAY AT HALING DENE

Saturday 24th November
Children's Pantomime
Two performances:
1.30 pm and 3.30 pm
Admission with tickets only
£1 per ticket available in advance at the Haling Dene Centre
Places will be limited

CONCERTS AT HALING DENE

Sunday 10th June—Wellington Brass Band
Sunday 22nd July—Wolverhampton Brass Band
Time for both concerts:
2.15 — 4.15 pm
Venue: Haling Dene Centre
Free Admission—Refreshments provided by the WI

CIVIC SERVICE 1 JULY 2007
OYEZ! OYEZ! CALLING ALL CITIZENS

The Parish Council would like to invite its Parishioners to this year's Civic Service. There will be a church service at St Michael's Church commencing at 6.30 pm followed by light refreshments and the presentation of both the Junior and Senior Civic Award at the Haling Dene Centre. Admission will be by tickets only so if you would like to attend please complete the slip below and return to the Haling Dene Centre no later than Friday 22nd June 2007.

CIVIC SERVICE 2007

Name

Address

Telephone No..... No of Tickets Required