

PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Volume 3 June 2009

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

At your Council's meeting held on Thursday 14th May elections of Office for the coming year were held. Councillor Mrs A J Geoghegan was elected as Chairman for a third term and Councillor Mrs I G A Ford was elected as Vice-Chairman for a second term. Councillor Mrs. Geoghegan was Chairman of the Parish Council the last two years and has served Penkridge Parish Council since May 2003. Councillor Mrs Ford has served the Parish Council for 18 years. Below is the Chairman's report at the Annual Parish Meeting which took place on 30th April 2009.

Chair's Report

Annual Parish meeting of Penkridge Parish Council 2009

It is with great pleasure that I present this report on the work of your Council during the past 12 months. I will begin with village issues.

THE PRECEPT—Council tax affects all of us in some way 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 remains the same for the **sixth** year in succession ie at £245.000. Our thanks go to the prudent management of the PA, Mrs Lynne Hames. So on behalf of the people of Penkridge may I thank you for your good management.

The detailed budgets for the coming year are on display this evening and I hope you will take this opportunity to examine them.

LAW AND ORDER—During the last year a group of village residents have continued to meet under the name of Penkridge Neighbourhood Network. This group was established in 2007 at the request of the Police and has been successful in several areas in the village.

Our PCSO Del Slater continues to look after the village on a day to day basis and can be seen riding round Penkridge on the bike which was sponsored by the Business Association. Our resident policeman who joined us from Essington in October is PC Darren Munnerly, known to all of us as Daz. He appears to have settled in well. In addition there is a team of 14 Special Constables who are in the village on Friday and Saturday nights All are approachable and wish me to say that they are always willing to look into any matter concerning law and order but can only do so if the public report incidents to them. The number is 0300 1234455.

Inspector Gains who had been with us for almost 3 years has moved on and has been replaced by Inspector Mark Jones who is resident at Watling NPU.

M6 WIDENING—The widening of the M6 is an important issue for our village and there is a dedicated Transport Group which is currently discussing this and other traffic problems in the village. The group is chaired by Councillor Peter Jones who is here tonight and who is available to take questions from the public.

As well as the Transport Group there are three further committees which deal with the Management of the Haling Dene Centre, Recreation and Amenities in the village and the Burial Ground. The Councillors who chair these groups are with us tonight and are here to answer any questions. I propose to discuss each committee in a little more detail.

THE HALING DENE COMMITTEE—Last year was a busy one for Haling Dene. Room 1 in which we are sitting now has been double glazed. This took some time to do as this is a Grade 2 listed building and special permissions need to be obtained. Outside the small

wall along the back of the building has been rebuilt and the path which follows the line of the building has been relaid in the same stone as the patio. Also the wall which fronts onto the canal has been repointed and made safe. In addition a dangerous cherry tree at the edge of the patio has been removed and a number of others have been pruned. In the coming months the back border will be brightened up to maintain the quality of the grounds.

Haling Dene has always been a popular venue for Weddings and more so now that the credit crunch has become more obvious. Bookings are up throughout the year.

The Chair of the Haling Dene Committee Councillor Stanley Wright is here this evening to answer any questions.

RECREATION and AMENITIES COMMITTEE—This committee interacts and supports the community in a number of ways. The Chair this year is Councillor Petula Hughes who is here to answer any questions.

Through this committee the Council supports the Inter Parish games. In 2008 we were 4th overall and our grateful thanks go to Mr and Mrs Holmes who organise all the entries and without whose dedication the games would not exist. Thank you both .

If there are any among you who have special talents be it chess, darts, cricket, bowls etc please get in touch with Mr and Mrs Holmes and offer you services. Your Council needs you !!!

In addition to the games there are various competitions organised by this committee, a photographic competition, a gardening competition, an allotment competition and in 2008 a school sculpture competition The idea for this competition was put forward by Councillor John Eastwood. The idea was to create a sculpture from recycled materials. The overall winners were Princefield School for their magnificent World which stood over six feet high. And the nursery school also made a superb Elephant. Unfortunately neither sculpture was able to stand being moved so they couldn't be shown to the village. The second place went to St. Michael's First School and the third went to Marshbrook First School. If you have received the recent edition of the Fishnet you will see that there is a plea for suggestions for future competitions. If you have any suggestions please speak to Lesley Griffiths either this evening or in the coming weeks.

I'm sure you are aware your Council supports swimming activities throughout the year at the Wolgarston pool. This year the Swimming Endeavour award went to Bryon Ranford in the Autumn term, Sam Hydes in Spring 2008 and Caitlin Beaumont in the Summer term. Our congratulations go to all 3 young swimmers. A complete list of winners in the many competitions is on display in the room. Please do have a look later.

Before going on to the final committee the Recreation and Amenities Committee is responsible for many different areas in the village eg maintaining the Play areas, the Skate park, Bus stops, Open spaces, Roundabouts, Flower troughs, Christmas lights etc, etc, etc the list is endless. So you can see it is a very busy committee.

And finally in addition to the competitions there is a pantomime for the children and band concerts held in the grounds of Haling Dene in the summer months. Usually there are 2 concerts and these are well attended. Could it be that the WI refreshments are a great attraction at these events?

THE BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE—This is the final committee of the Council. The Burial Ground is now fully operational and is a beautiful, peaceful place despite its proximity to the Railway station. The Deputy PA, Lesley Griffiths is the Responsible Officer who deals sympathetically with the relatives of the deceased Questions to Councillor Paul Geoghegan.

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 been re-accredited as a quality Parish for the second term.

The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme is a government initiative for all parish and town councils in England. The accreditation process is conducted by the County Accreditation Panel on behalf of Her Majesty's Government and co-ordinated with the support of the National Association of Local Councils. So we are very pleased to have achieved the award again.

The Council begins its Civic year with a service which is usually held at the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels. The proceedings were led by the Rev Mick Williams and the prayers by the Reverend Sheila Finn who has been my chaplain for the last 3 years and who has been a welcome support on many occasions. After the service the reception at Haling Dene was a pleasant, relaxed evening and was attended by representatives from a number of organisations who contribute to village life as well as a number of Chair persons from surrounding parishes. This year's Civic Award was presented to Colin Oakley for his good work with his neighbours and his community spirit in general.

Later in November Councillors attended the ceremony of the laying of the wreaths at the War Memorial after parading through a very wet Penkridge. Once again, the parade with the British Legion reminding us of the sacrifice of so many for us so that we may be free.

It was gratifying to note that there was substantial support from parishioners despite the inclement weather. Later that day, following their service of reconciliation at the German Military Cemetery a luncheon was held at the Haling Dene centre on behalf of the Anglo German Association. As Chair of the Parish Council I also represented Penkridge at several Remembrance services including the South Staffordshire Council and laid a wreath on our behalf.

And last but by no means least the Council supports its own web site:- www.penkridge.org.uk. The web master is Bevan Craddock who is also a councillor for the North East ward as well as being our Town Crier.

AND FINALLY In conclusion I wish to pay tribute to the many people who have contributed to making this Council a successful one. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my vice chair for her support, together with my Council Colleagues and the Council staff for their support during my third year of office. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to represent the people of Penkridge.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for attending and if you have any further questions we will do our best to answer them.

CONCERTS AT HALING DENE

Sunday 19th July— Great Wyrley Community Band

Sunday 9th August— Stone Town Band

Time for both concerts: 2.15 — 4.15 pm

Venue: Haling Dene Centre

Free Admission—Refreshments provided by the W I
Everyone Welcome!

PART-TIME JOB
VACANCY

Part Time Temporary Toilet
Orderly required for the Village
Public Toilets.

If interested please contact
Lynne Hames - Tel 01785 714157

PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL'S
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Lynne Hames—tel: 01785 714157
e-mail: lynne@penkridgeparish.org.uk

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE:

Gailey Ward

Mr A Minshall

North East Ward

Mrs S Chambers, Mr B Craddock,
Mr J L Eastwood, Mr D G Vaughan.

South East Ward

Mrs A J Geoghegan (Chairman),
Mr P Geoghegan, Mrs P Hughes (Vice-Chairman),
Ms T McGuinness, Mr J McPheat, Mr D Murphy.

West Ward

Mrs I G A Ford, Mr P M Jones, Mr S MacDonald,
Mr S A Wright,

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL

North East & Acton Trussell Ward

Mrs I G A Ford , Mr G M Spandler

South East Ward

Mr R Holt, Mrs C J Raven

West Ward

Mr D E Cartwright

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL

Mrs V Downes

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mr D Kidney

EURO MP

Mr Michael Cashman

For contact information for all above
tel: 01785 714157 or see website.

Parish Council Meetings are held at
7.00 pm in Room 1, Haling Dene
Centre every second Thursday of the month except August

Office Contact

Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road, Penkridge. Opening times 9am-1pm, 2pm—5pm
(Monday-Friday)

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Web Site

www.penkridge.org.uk
(click on Parish Council link)