



## PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Volume 2 April 2010

### ***Below is the Chairman's report at the Annual Parish Meeting which took place on 18th March 2010.***

Those of you who have been to an Annual Parish meeting before or who have read my previous reports in PPC News would know that it is usual to report on each committee and their achievements throughout the year. This year however, I have decided to change the format slightly. I am using Penkridge Parish Council's Business Plan as the basis for my report.

I shall begin with the Public Participation section of the monthly council meetings. This is the part of the meeting where the agenda is suspended for 15 minutes and members of the community can ask questions on any topic. Since May we have had a number of issues which have caused concern. For example the site of the proposed new Silverdene, a much needed facility for our older parishioners particularly as the original Silverdene was raised to the ground almost 3 years ago. The proposed new building is almost at the planning stage now and we should see some movement in the not too distant future. From August onwards there has been much concern with regard to the travellers who have taken up residence in the field alongside the A449. Originally when I was writing this report we were waiting for the SSC to make a decision regarding their planning application. Now I can inform you, if you didn't already know, that the application for a residential site on the A449 has been refused.

As well as the topics on the agenda of the Full Council there are two Planning meetings per month. Again the public are allowed to attend the meetings and observe but there is no facility for participation. On average there are 7/8 plans considered at each Planning meeting and any comments made by Councillors and neighbours are communicated to SSC, as it is their remit and may I emphasise theirs alone, to pass or reject all plans. In addition to the various plans the Conservation Officer from SSC is regularly consulted on all issues so the requirements of the Conservation Area are enforced.

A couple of years ago the village was consulted on the proposals for various changes to the Conservation Area. The Planning Officers have produced an adapted and amended plan.

Recently the Conservation Officer was consulted when the bay windows of Haling Dene were replaced. This was in addition to the annual maintenance programme to maintain this Grade II listed building. The upkeep of this listed building is a continuous process and is undertaken by a committee drawn from the Council. The Haling Dene Centre is well used by the village and wedding bookings have multiplied over the last few years. If you wish to hire any of the rooms for a party, wedding anniversary etc. you would be well advised to book early!!! All hirers are asked to complete a form and to feed back any comments to the PA, good or not so good. Similarly the groups which use the Centre meet annually to discuss various issues they may have.

This building is carefully tended by Wendy Price, our Caretaker, and her team and as you can see is maintained to a very high standard of cleanliness, (Perhaps we should recommend Wendy and her team to the N.H.S.) In addition Roy, our Handyman, looks after the numerous little jobs which need attention.

I cannot move to the next Committee without mentioning Kerry Hodson, our Bar Manager. Always cheerful, Kerry's fruit punch is to die for and as yet I haven't discovered the "magic" ingredient !!

The current Chair of the Haling Dene Committee, is Councillor Wright.

In addition to the Haling Dene Centre the Council has responsibility for the amenities in the village such as maintaining and improving the Play Areas. It is currently involved in a very exciting project being undertaken by the Recreation and Amenities Committee. A grant has been applied for to open a new play area. After much consultation of our young people by the Deputy PA Lesley Griffiths, it has been decided to site this new play area off Wolgarston Way. This land is owned by South Staffordshire Council and is situated near Heron Drive.

Why this part of the village? Basically because a good proportion of our young people live on the South East side of Penkridge on the newer estates and so will get the most benefit from a new play area nearer their homes. We have Breaking News - Staffordshire County Council have advised that we have been awarded the Playbuilder Grant so congratulations to all concerned. We are indebted to Carnell who have contributed £2,500 towards the installation of this equipment so on behalf of the young people of the village many thanks !!

Cont....

### **PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL'S PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

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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 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)  
Tel: 01785 714157 or e-mail:  
info@penkridgeparish.org.uk

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

In addition to the new play area other Play Areas in the village, Kempson Road, Horse Fair and the Wolverhampton Road will be re-furbished. The Recreation and Amenities Committee is serviced by Councillors, chaired by Councillor Trudie McGuinness. The Recreation and Amenities Committee has a very wide remit in the village area and is responsible for providing and watering floral displays throughout the year, maintaining the islands, the Festival Gardens, open spaces, grass cutting, the annual Christmas tree and lights in Market Street, and organising the competitions not forgetting the Toilets on Crown Bridge which are to be re-furbished during 2010.

The third Committee of the Council is that of the Burial Ground. This group of Councillors meets throughout the year and continue to develop and maintain the Pinfold Lane site. The area has been landscaped and is regularly maintained so that the atmosphere in the Burial Ground is generally quiet and peaceful. Improvements have been made to the pond area and this is the preferred place for several sets of wild life. I refer to Moor Hens and Coots in particular who have made the pond their home. I was not referring to the other kind of "wild life" which sometimes passes through the Burial Ground on a warm summer's evening!!! There are also plans to fence the Burial Ground in 2010. The Chair of the Burial Ground Committee is Councillor Paul Geoghegan.

Apart from coming to Council meetings one of the other ways to keep up with the achievements of the Council is to look at the village web site. Councillor Craddock maintains and regularly updates the site and tries to encourage Parishioners to have their say on issues which affect them. If you haven't been on the site may I suggest you take a look, as a wide variety of subjects are covered. The site is a popular source of information and is due to have a major revamp during in 2010.

Finally, your Parish Council has held "Quality" Status for the last 5 years. This will be reviewed again in 2013. Also "Investors in People" was obtained in 2005 and renewed in 2009. and due to the prudent "house-keeping" of Lynne Hames, the PA to the Council, the Precept for the sixth year, yes the 6<sup>th</sup> year, remains the same at £245,000. From the people of Penkrige, many thanks Lynne. In case you are wondering the Committee budgets and the Final Accounts of the Council are externally audited by the Audit Commission as per Government requirements.

Finally may I thank you for attending this meeting tonight and showing an interest in the Council's activities. If there is any information I have not covered please feel free to ask questions and I will do my best to answer them.

**INTER PARISH GAMES**

Inter Parish Games competition is a series of sports events held between February and June. There are currently over 22 different sports undertaken by parish teams. Each parish has a representative who organises teams, of all abilities, to represent the parish at each event.

Penkrige was awarded 4th position last year and we would ask all able bodied residents to step forward and compete in the games. You do not have to be world class standard, a local pub team or group of friends would be welcome, it is also a great deal of fun. For further information please contact either Bob Holmes on Tel: 715439 or Lynne Hames at the Haling Dene on Tel: 714157.

**JUNIOR CIVIC AWARD 2010**

**OYEZI OYEZI CALLING ALL CITIZENS**

If you know a young person who is under 25 and who has demonstrated commitment to, or benefit for, the community and you think he/she deserves recognition please fill in the slip below and return it to the Parish Administrator. The closing date is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010

JUNIOR CIVIC AWARD 2010

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Parish Administrator's Office by not later than Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.

**CIVIC AWARD 2010**

**OYEZI OYEZI CALLING ALL CITIZENS**

If you know a parishioner who has contributed to the village community and would like to nominate him/her to be considered for this year's Civic Award please fill in the slip below and return it to the Parish Administrator. The closing date is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.

CIVIC AWARD 2010

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Parish Administrator's Office by not later than Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.

