

# **PARWICH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Newsletter January 2014**

Dear Parishioners

The Parish Council would like to update you on some of the work of the Council: what we have done during 2013 and what we are hoping to do in 2014.

The members of the Council are:

- Jane Bennett
- Robert Bunting
- Matthew Harrison
- Caroline Healy
- Nia Linnell
- Earl Yeomans

We were sorry that Stephen Dale decided to leave the Council at the end of this year, having been a parish councillor for many years.

We are very grateful for the time and effort Stephen has contributed to the council.

### **Vacancy**

As a result of Stephen leaving, we have a vacancy on the council. Please contact Sandra Hampson if you are interested in joining us.

Tel: 01335 310409

Email: [sandra.hampson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandra.hampson@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Clerk to the Council**

Sandra Hampson is employed as our clerk and is doing an excellent job, supporting the work of the council and undertaking the complex administrative tasks that are required of this role.

The Council meets every month in the Memorial Hall with the exception of August and sometimes December. We have been pleased to have members of the parish join us to contribute to and observe, our meetings. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

The minutes, agenda and dates of our meetings are posted on the Blog and are available to view at the village shop.

### **2013**

The council has had to undertake a series of necessary repairs and renovations in the village. These include renovation of the bus shelter, repairing and improving the play area, repairing and renovating the pavilion, improving the water course in the streams to reduce the risk of flooding. The purchase of a new bin for the football field has also been requested.

Tree surgery has taken place to remove diseased and potentially dangerous trees and an avenue of trees has been planted for the future benefit of the community. The council continues to maintain the grass verges, village greens, the former cricket ground and football field.

The public toilets have been beautifully looked after by Iris Hallam. We have received many compliments about the cleanliness of the public facilities from walkers, visitors and campers. We are very grateful to Iris for volunteering to do this last season.

### **Vacancy**

The Council is looking for someone to clean the toilets from April through to October. If anyone is interested in doing this on a voluntary, or paid basis, please contact Sandra Hampson

Tel: 01335 310409

Email: [sandra.hampson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandra.hampson@hotmail.co.uk)

The Parish Council works closely with the other committees in the community to make sure our resources are used to best effect. The Memorial Hall is a well used and popular village amenity. This year the council agreed to cover the costs of insuring the Memorial Hall.

The Council has ongoing responsibilities which incur considerable expense, these include: clerk's salary, village mowing, utility costs, council insurance, audit fees, playground inspection and other essential administration costs. The Parish Council receives an income from land rents and some unpredictable income from caravan bookings. The Council has considered winter sheep grazing on Parson's Croft as a means of attracting additional income.

The accounts for the Parish Council are openly available through Mrs Hampson during the advertised annual audit period.

### **The Parish Precept**

The Parish Council gets the majority of its funding by receiving an amount linked to the local Council Tax. This is referred to as the Parish Precept.

Every December/January, Parwich Parish Council has to determine the likely expenditure costs and income for the following financial year.

The decision on how much to set as the Parish Precept is determined by the likely income, the cost of ongoing responsibilities, the renovations, the repairs, any projects brought to the Council's attention and the balance of the parish council's accounts. It is a decision that is taken with a great deal of care as the Council attempts to balance the needs of the village and the requirement to keep charges as low as possible.

### **2014**

The projects that have been identified are:

- Renovations to the public toilets
- Renovations to the footbridge near playground
- Maintenance of the Parish land on Pump Hill, to ensure it is safe
- Flood prevention measures as necessary.
- The playground continues to be monitored. Through the efforts of the council, significant expenditure was saved on the roundabout; however, the slide needs attention and other equipment and ground surface may need maintenance.

In addition there are the ongoing costs as outlined above.

## **The precept for 2014/15**

The precept for 2014-15 was agreed by the Parish Council at the December meeting in the sum of £9,500. Based on information supplied by Derbyshire Dales District Council at the time of setting the precept the parish council charge per year, expressed in terms of Band D rated properties, will be £45.48 or £3.79 per month.

This translates as being an approximate increase of £14.35 per year or £1.20 per month to Band D rated properties this year. However, this amount may be subject to amendment on receipt of a grant from Derbyshire Dales District Council.

It is regrettable to the Council that there should be an increase this year, but after lengthy discussion and consideration, we unanimously agreed that this increase is required to enable the Council to carry out its responsibilities during the 2014/15 financial year.

## **Dates for your Dairy**

The Parish Council is going to convene two public consultation meetings with Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council:

- Flood Risk Management
- The Bus Service

The Flood Risk Management meeting will take place on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall.

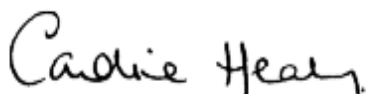
The meeting for the Bus Service has yet to be arranged but will be posted on noticeboards and the Blog.

We will also be holding another of our Open Evenings in May, to showcase all of the wonderful activities and groups that are available to the local community. Everyone is welcome to this event.

The date for this will be **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm**

The Parish Council welcomes your views, comments and any contributions of help and support.

We would like would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.



**Caroline Healy**  
**Chair of Parwich Parish Council**  
**January 2014**