

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013 - 2014

The Parish Council met on five occasions, as required, during the year.

At our meetings we have received regular Reports as required or appropriate from:-

Our Public Path Warden	Tony Stock
Our Tree Warden	Tim West
Our Malvern Hill Conservators representative	Richard Chamings
Our Local Police Officer	PC Sarah Ransome-Williams
The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee	Donald Hill
Our County and District Councillor	Tom Wells
Guarlford History Group	Dr EH Jones

During the year we welcomed our new Tree Warden, Tim West. Our thanks go to all the above for their contributions to our meetings.

AUDITING

David Kuun agreed to continue his good work for us as Internal Auditor for a further year. Councillor Andrew Medcalf has supplied regular Reports as Internal Financial Monitor. We are grateful to them for their work and due diligence.

PRECEPT

The Parish Council has been able to maintain the precept for the year at the same level as for the year 2012/2013 (£3,750)

PLANNING

Only one planning application within the Parish has been considered by your Planning Committee and appropriate comments passed to Malvern Hills District Council Planning Department. It is to be noted that Malvern Hills District Council notified us that with effect from 1 October 2013 consultations with Parish Councils on planning applications concerning the Parish would be made electronically. I would like to thank the members of the Planning Committee for the diligent way in which they have gone about their business.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan ("SWDP") (which decides the shape of South Worcestershire and its housing development in the future) has been on-going business for all of the year and we are most grateful to Tom Wells for attending our meetings and so fully briefing us on ongoing developments during the year. A matter of great concern has been the apparent willingness of the Malvern Hills Conservators to grant wayleaves to potential developers of land in the area and the effect of development thus facilitated on the natural aspect of the Hills (an area designated as one of outstanding natural beauty) which it is the core duty of the Conservators to protect.

PARISH ENVIRONMENT

- 1) The Guarlford History Group hosted a very successful and enjoyable event on 9 June at the home of Councillor Dr and Mrs Peter Mayner to mark the ~~occasion~~ of the Queen's Coronation. The Parish Council was able to contribute to this event and was very pleased to be able to be associated with it and is very grateful to Dr and Mrs Mayner for generously making their home and gardens available.
- 2) The poor condition of the footpaths in Guarlford continues to concern the Council and appropriate representations have been made to Worcestershire Highways Dept.
- 3) The Parish Council through the good offices of Tom Wells was able to secure a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign which is to be shared for periods in rotation between this Parish and the neighbouring Parishes of Newland and Madresfield. Newland Parish Council has generously agreed that their lengthsman will undertake the work necessary regularly to relocate the sign at agreed places within the three Parishes.
- 4) The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is fully operational and covers houses in Bamford Close and Rectory Lane. Colin Lettice retired as a coordinator during the year and the Parish Council is most grateful to him for his good work. His role in respect of Bamford Close has been assumed by Tony Stock. The Parish Council is very grateful for the production of regular reports of criminal activity in the area (much of it concerning the theft of catalytic converters).

ADMINISTRATION

We are most grateful to our Clerk, James Sommerville, for his continuing excellent work.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Website is a great asset and is regularly kept up to date by Mr Angus McCulloch to whom we extend our thanks.

Finally may I thank Councillors and our Clerk for their attendance, varied contributions and support throughout the year.

M G Huskinson

12 May 2014