

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2009.

Chairman's Report

The past year has been a busy one for the Parish Council. Aside from several planning application reviews; the Parish Council has worked with Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council on several improvement plans and actions. These relate to drainage, traffic issues at Morton Spirt, footpath access issues and the general maintenance of ditches, verges and the village green

David Ernest, Chairman

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy has highlighted the need to build 26,500 houses in the West Midlands. Abbots Morton is classed as a Low Category Village due to lack of public transport and amenities and as far as we can see no houses are planned for this area. Public meetings regarding the strategy will be held in the autumn.

Angela Eason, Vice Chairman

Rural Housing Questionnaire

At a recent meeting the Parish Council decided not to carry out a Rural Housing Needs Survey for the Parish.

Information

Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. Extra meetings may be called to discuss planning applications or urgent matters, these will be advertised. Meetings are due to take place on July 21st, September 29th and November 24th 2009. Please report to the Council problems with highways, litter, etc.

Flooding

The Parish Council has purchased some aqua sacs to help prevent flooding to properties. The following persons have a supply if you require them:

The Low – Angela Eason.
Village – David Ernest.
Alcester Road, Morton Spirt – Richard Francis.
Gooms Hill – vacancy.

Bench

During the year it was decided to replace the bench on the Village Green as the old one was in need of repair. It was agreed to dedicate the bench in memory of Mrs. Kennedy. The bench is made of English Oak and was purchased with donations from Wychavon District Council and parishioners. The ceremony is due to take place on the 18th July 2009.

Highways

Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the roads and footways within the Parish. The Parish Lengthsman is able to carry out minor duties on their behalf. Over the past year representatives of the Parish Council have had several meetings with Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent Water. This has resulted in:

- Drainage system jetted through and camera survey completed.
- Two buried manhole covers found by Tudor Cottage. An order has been made to have these raised.
- Work is required on the headwall between the Village Hall and the Green.
- A slight blockage has been identified in the pipe work that runs beneath the Green.
- Large culvert chamber adjacent to Tan House field - proposal to put in an extra manhole cover with a grid to cope with extra water that collects at this point.
- Severn Trent Water has cleared the system in the Village following a survey which showed blockages due to tree root ingress.

Following several meetings with Highway Engineers regarding speeding vehicles at Morton Spirt some highway signs have been replaced, new signs erected on the Warwickshire side and white edge lining to emphasise the width of the carriageway. Thanks to the Residents' Association for all their help in this matter. Talks are in progress with representatives from Warwickshire County Council to address the erosion of the bank and danger to footway users.

Councillor Vacancy

Derek Spooner resigned from the Parish Council due to his move to Herefordshire. He will be sorely missed and we wish him well in his new home. A notice of co-option has been placed in the Notice Board and on the website. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk or any of the Councillors.

Rights of Way

Pat Ansell has resigned as Parish Paths Warden. The Parish Council on behalf of the community wish to thank Pat for all her hard work in maintaining the service. Pat has offered to continue in an unofficial role so if there are any problems with the network please let her know. If anyone wishes to take on the post of Parish Paths Warden please contact Pat for details.

Accounts year ending March 31st 2009

<u>Receipts</u>	
Interest Bus. Instant Access A/C	44.73
Precept	5764.00
WCC P/L scheme	1645.60
VAT Refund	74.62
Litter Pick Bursary	500.00
WCC P3	140.00
Inland Revenue	100.00
Bench	700.00
TOTAL	8968.95

<u>Expenditure</u>	
PWLB	1909.56
Staff costs	2112.45
Training	5.88
Audit	203.50
Administration	199.77
Harvington PC for P/L	1452.00
Insurance	332.78
Grants	1634.63
Subscriptions	76.72
PP3	374.90
Parish Plan	10.00
Parish meeting	44.47
Bench	902.75
TOTAL	9259.41

Balance as at 01.04.08	
Current A/C	3514.84
Bus. Instant Access A/C	2535.82
TOTAL	6050.66

Balance as at 31.03.09	
Current A/C	3179.65*
Bus. Instant Access A/C	2580.55
TOTAL	5760.20

*Current A/C minus allocated grant money of £108.55 leaves £3071.10 for current use.

Walking in Worcestershire

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So www.walkinginworcestershire.co.uk came into being.

Details of more than 80 walks to download and print free, details of all the Worcestershire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information.

So check out the website and get walking!

David Ernest (Chairman)	01386 793767
Angela Eason (Vice Chairman)	01386 793107
Margaret Brewster	01386 792770
Clive Holt	01386 792490
Don Humphries	01386 792362
Pat Ansell	01386 792643

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