

## **Annual Report of the Parish Council 2013-14**

### **Changes on the Parish Council**

Sandra Kendrick resigned from the Parish Council on 24 April 2013 and in May 2013 the Council welcomed Colin Clear, who was co-opted to the Council and took his seat at the Annual Meeting.

Alastair Adams, our Wychavon District Councillor, was also elected to Worcestershire County Council on 2 May 2013

### **Council Tax/Parish Precept**

The Parish Council was very aware of the continuing current economic climate and the need to be prudent when it considered the annual precept for 2014 /15. The Council has therefore agreed a small increase in the precept which amounted to just 1.6%, mainly to assist with the cost of developing the Recreation field and the new Community Centre project.

### **Planning and Major Development Proposals**

The three major developments, Grange Farm (Taylor Wimpey), land adjacent to Station Road/Dudley Road (Lioncourt) and the Sheep Sales Field, Station Road (Sharba Homes) continued to be major topics of conversation.

Taylor Wimpey and Lioncourt do not yet own the sites but state that they will shortly.

The Sharba site was transferred to David Wilson Homes who eventually, with Parish Council support, revised the proposal from 44 houses to 35, with some 5 bedroom properties and a better layout more in keeping with the location. To balance this they proposed some one bedroom properties which no other development in the village was providing. Despite Planning Officer objection this was passed by the WDC Planning Committee. The Chairman and Cllr Adams both spoke in favour of the reduced number of properties and the revised layout and development has now started.

Fancutts site application for 8 dwellings was submitted just after the last Annual Meeting and received outline planning permission.

An application for outline consent for 14 dwellings on land at the rear of Land of High Street was considered by the Council and objected to on 24 April 2013. Wychavon Planning Committee having heard the arguments put forward by the Parish Council and our District Councillor unanimously refused the application. However, this decision was recently overturned on appeal and approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

In May last year, the Chairman of the Parish Council attended a meeting at Wychavon DC with Nick Boles, Planning Minister at Wychavon District Council chaired by Peter Luff MP. He put Honeybourne's case strongly in an attempt to persuade the Government to review its current planning policy, which was having a major impact on the village.

## **Conservation Area Review**

In September 2013 officers of WDC presented the draft Honeybourne Conservation Area Review as a preliminary to the consultation process starting.

In October 2013, the proposals for boundary changes put by the Conservation Officers were considered and strong objections were made over the inclusion of the area surrounding the Village Hall site. A further objection was raised regarding the removal of a section of High Street from the conservation area boundary as some listed buildings are in the section which form a distinctive part of the High Street's character. Other smaller inclusions and realignments of the conservation area boundary were accepted.

A public consultation meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January attended by only 10 members of the public, six of whom were Parish Councillors. It was noted that none of the properties affected by the proposed changes had been directly informed by letter or other means. Members again questioned the need to exclude from the conservation area four listed buildings in the High Street and also the inclusion of the Village Hall site and Manor Farm

## **Parish Council Speaking at Planning Committees**

In January 2014, having used this opportunity, the Council fully supported the need to retain the Parish Council's three minute speaking opportunity at WDC planning committee meetings, at the conclusion of the trial period.

## **Development site problems - Sheep Sales Field**

Complaints were received regarding the site working hours, alleged noise nuisance, mud on the highway and lorries parking on the highway verges. These were all reported to David Wilson Homes and steps have been taken to address the problems.

Signage has eventually been provided at the entrance to Bretforton Road and Gloster Ades, advising drivers of delivery vehicles to carry on to the Weston sub Edge crossroads to access the David Wilson Homes site.

## **New Sports and Recreation Field**

A Project Manager, Mr Ken Watkins, was appointed to identify funding and development opportunities.

At a stakeholders meeting, the Architect's initial plan indicating a proposed layout of all requested facilities and pitches was considered at length and it was agreed to be the best option to put forward to WDC officers to enable verification of the amount of section 106 funding which could be made available. The need to prioritise the facilities was debated as there may be a shortfall in the funding available.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 a further meeting was held with the project manager Mr Ken Watkins.

In attendance were VISA committee members, all available Parish Councillors and two football team managers.

Mr Watkins presented his proposals based on the original wish lists from VISA Ltd. and the Parish Council but it became clear that the wish list initially given to Mr Watkins was no longer achievable in practical terms, the main reason being the unsuitability of the field's soil structure for the concentration of football which had been asked for and the subsequent withdrawal of the local football team from the village pitch. The general consensus was that the original aspirations need to be revised by both the Parish Council and VISA Ltd.

At the April meeting the Council accepted a surrender of the lease of the field from VISA Ltd, because of the dramatic change in circumstances which had arisen due to the unexpected availability of s106 money to the Parish Council to develop the field. VISA Ltd will continue to work in partnership with the Parish Council in developing the field, organizing events and additional fund raising.

### **New Community Centre**

The Community Centre project commenced and a public meeting was announced to take place on 29 June 2013

The Parish Council sought a formal agreement or letter of intent for the transfer of the Community Centre site from Taylor Wimpey; the response indicated the land was not yet in the control of Taylor Wimpey and the matter would be resolved when the land transfer takes place. This is still the current position.

Investigations are ongoing to find any historic legal documentation for the existing Village Hall as the original deeds and plans are missing. To date these have been unsuccessful.

The Chairman attended Village Hall Committee meeting on 6 January 2014 to outline the reasons for the delays with the new site, explain how the new Centre would be owned and managed, and to comment on funding for the new facility and disposal of the existing site. He advised that s106 money would not be available for the Community Centre and that New Homes Bonus could not be guaranteed, especially after the next general election.

## **Speeding**

The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) purchased by the Parish Council was installed in late May 2013.

A subsequent report on the VAS deployment and infringement counts noted over the first nine months prompted Members to request the data should be sent to the local police and the Safer Roads Partnership with a request for more speed enforcement.

Subsequently a report received from the Police on speed enforcement in Station Road indicated six speeding tickets were issued in a four hour period on 15<sup>th</sup> January this year.

A meeting was held on 2 October with a Highways Officer to consider extending the 30mph limit on Station Road. The proposed extension will be as far as Station House on the north side of the bridge, the Honeybourne Village sign will also be moved and one of the existing 30mph signposts remain in place for the VAS. Added to these changes a large "SLOW" will be painted on the road just north of the Gate Inn crossroads to encourage reductions in speed through the village.

## **Highways Bretforton Road**

In May 2013 our new County Councillor, Alastair Adams, confirmed he was pursuing the matter. He later reported that Bretforton Road patching works would start in September 2013 with a full surface dressing in Spring 2014. The patching works did take place and made a great improvement. We await the surface dressing to complete the repair

## **Taylor Wimpey site access**

It had been agreed after a lot of discussion that the entrance to the Taylor Wimpey site at Grange Farm would be protected by an extension of the 30mph limit out of the village, followed by a 40mph limit. This was for general road safety and to reduce speeding into the village.

However, in February 2014 Highway officers proposed changes to these speed limit zones. The matter is unresolved at present and Cllr Adams will continue, with the Parish Council's support, to press the Highway Authority, not to make these changes.

## **Other matters**

### **Mowing Contract**

Complaints about the standard of mowing during May 2013 were made to the new contractor in June 2013.. Appalling weather had not helped and the standard improved noticeably once the rain stopped.

Further complaints have been made at the start of the 2014 mowing season.

## Village notice boards

In June 2013 the Council considered replacing the old village notice boards, along with the suitability of their locations. Cllr Colin Clear suggested that HMP Long Lartin be asked to make the noticeboards in their workshops to a design specified by the Council and this is still being progressed.

## New Post Box

Following on from the closure of the village Post Office and its relocation to the Village shop, the Council has requested Royal Mail to install a new pole mounted red letter box on the High Street by the access to the Taylor Wimpey site.

## Village News

In September Claire Poore and Rita Booth presented to the Council a proposal for the Village News to go to every house in the village and to make it financially independent. The Council agreed to make a grant to 'kickstart' this worthwhile project which is now proving to be very successful and popular.

## Council Meetings

The Council held thirteen meetings during the year.

## Members Attendance at Full Council Meetings 2013-14

	May	June	July	August Extra	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total from 13
Brian Johnson	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	11
Andrew Attridge				x	x			x	x	x		x		6
Ann Simmons	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
Peter Brookes	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	10
David Cowan	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
David George	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	13
Graham Clelland		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
Mike Powell	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	11
Colin Clear	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	12
Sylvia Matthews	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	13
Trish Probert	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	11
Cllr Alistair Adams	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	10

**Honeybourne Parish  
Council**

Last Year  
**2012-13**

**Balance Sheet for  
As of**

**2013-14**  
20-April

**Year End**

**Income**

51,900.00	Precept	53,000.00
1,920.00	Cemetery fees	1,990.00
900.92	Lengthsman	0.00
860.00	Allotments	740.00
2,509.60	VAT Refund	2,767.91
0.00	Grants	0.00
2,697.00	Miscellaneous	328.70
28.75	Bank interest	35.41
<b>60,787.52</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>58,862.02</b>

**Expenditure**

2,285.97	VAT	2,317.51
7,453.84	Clerks Salary	9,695.64
1,039.04	Clerks Expenses	1,048.44
2,739.28	Mowing	3,769.85
383.21	Cemetery	966.74
939.05	Lengthsman	1,801.00
1,583.06	Repairs & Maintenance	1,299.10
797.20	The Leys	383.75
4,180.99	Recreation Field	902.21
852.00	Light Maintenance	322.00
2,063.21	Light Energy	2,065.53
1,920.54	Administration	990.24
1,500.00	VISA Field Project	7,366.48
665.73	Subs & Fees	681.19
785.72	Grants Donations	3,184.72
2,106.06	HMRC	3,447.28
375.00	Allotments	546.43
750.00	New Village Hall	4,200.00
128.20	Members Expenses	110.10
1,031.95	Insurance	1,064.94
6,533.66	Loan Repayment	6,533.66
50.00	Training	5.00
30.00	Chairman's Allowance	30.00
<b>40,193.71</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>52,731.81</b>

**20,593.81**

**Surplus**

**6,130.21**

**Balance Sheet**

Open Balance	74,130.09
Income	58,862.02
Expenditure	52,731.81
Un-cleared Cheques	2,481.52
Un-cleared Cheques 2012-3	4,157.76
Un-cleared Receipts	0.00
<b>Cash Book Balance</b>	<b>78,584.06</b>

**Represented By**

Un-cleared Receipts	0.00
Current Bank Account	11,003.25
Deposit Bank Account	67,580.81
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>78,584.06</b>

**Current Liabilities**

Borrowing	0.00
Un-cleared cheques	2,481.52
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,481.52</b>

**Current Assets**

Recoverable VAT	263.26
Lengthsman to claim	1,801.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,064.26</b>

**Total Asset less Liabilities**

**78,166.80**

**Fixed Assets Register**

**Nominal Value**

**92,236.00**