

LINTON CIVIL PARISH
BROMSASH GORSLEY & LINTON

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8

Report from the Chairman.

I would first of all like to thank all the Councillors for their service on the Parish Council. Last year 2006/7 ended with four vacancies. Fortunately four volunteers came forward, Max Gough, Andrew Gardner, Laura Keene & Mike Cluely so we now have our full complement of 10 councillors.

During the financial year 2007/8 a meeting has been held every month. Members of the public are always present and are encouraged to ask questions or suggest items for inclusion on the agenda. Any planning applications which have been received are also available for public scrutiny and comment.

Our Responsible Finance Officer & Clerk Mrs Annette Steele has again very capably managed the finances of the Council. All expenditure requires approval by Councillors and all cheques must be signed by two Councillors after payment is approved. A current account sheet is issued at each monthly meeting for scrutiny by all Councillors and any member of the public present at the meeting. The accounts are also subject to an internal audit by someone independent of the Council. Mr Russell Denbigh has volunteered to take on this job, for which we are very grateful. The accounts are then of course subject to an external audit by the Audit Commission.

The Parish Precept for 2007/8 was £5,300 costing a Band D council tax payer 22p per week, for the year 2008/9 the Precept will be £5,800 costing a Band D council tax payer 24p per week. As you will note every penny of income and expenditure is accounted for in an exemplary manner. I feel that council tax payers might benefit if Herefordshire Council followed our example.

The Parish Clerk, Mrs Annette Steele in addition to her duties as Finance Officer covers all the administrative work of the Council, which increases yearly, in an extremely efficient way and it is a pleasure to work with her.

Planning & Enforcement is always an important part of parish council work. The numbers with which we have dealt during the past year have been slightly less than usual. The firm hoping to erect 2 wind turbines at Withymoor Farm has apparently gone into administration, so we may not have a planning application to consider in the near future. The developer of the proposed holiday complex at Hartleton Lakes has the right to continue building in accordance with the planning permission given some 20 years ago (as an exception to planning policy) by South Hereford District Council and which was deemed to have had sufficient work carried out, not to require renewal of permission in 1995. A developer has indicated that work is about to start and the Legal Services Department of Herefordshire Council has confirmed that the developer is in order to do so, that was in January of this year, we still waiting any further developments. The Enforcement Order issued at Two Park Farm, Jay's Green seems to be taking effect at last. We have also

received a planning application for an Agricultural Storage Building on the same site which the applicant requires to facilitate a Fruit Farm he wishes to start; we have no further information on this at the moment. According to information from Herefordshire Council the Enforcement Order on Cothars Farm has been complied with and the 'White Van' business has ceased.

Highways in the last few weeks speeds have been monitored throughout Linton, there would appear to be a slight possibility that a 30mph limit could be imposed with all the legally required signage. It would be virtually impossible to enforce as indeed it is through Bromsash where a lot of the road markings have been and are being obliterated. Unfortunately it is often local people including those with farm machinery who not only exceed the speed limit but drive dangerously often with a mobile telephone glued to hand and ear. However the Parish Council has not given up hope and is combining with Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council to improve conditions on the B4221 particularly outside the school. Efforts will also continue throughout the parish.

The Web-site (www.lintonpc-herefordshire.gov.uk) continues and can now be accessed from the Herefordshire Council web-site if you wish. The minutes are published each month together with any other matters of interest.

Parish Footpaths Richard Baker & Sue Jones volunteered to be Footpath Officers for which we are very grateful. We have joined the Parish Footpaths scheme again and will have £775 to spend this year on the footpaths. Mr Baker will give a fuller report later in this meeting.

Linton Quarry (in Gorsley) this site is part of a 'Global Geopark', some work has been carried out in the woodland this year and has been visited by members of the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust. Moira Jenkins & Jessica Donaldson of the Trust are here to speak to us about the site and their hopes for more people to be able to access the quarry and learn about its unique qualities.

Allotments. Thanks again to the sterling work of the Clerk Mrs Steele together with Councillors Phil Page & Ken Downham the allotments are in excellent order and have all been rented out. We do however have a problem with rabbits and the fencing. Discussions are continuing with the supplier and it is hoped that the problem will be resolved so that the rabbits will have to be content with the grass on their side of the fence.

The Parish Action Plan last year of the 140 Parish Councils in Herefordshire 39 (of which we are one) had completed parish plans, since the year 2001, now there are 42. If we make further progress with Herefordshire Council this year with regard to the highway problems not only can we say we have an action plan but that we have nearly completed it, but I won't hold my breath!

If there are any questions I will be happy to answer them if I can, or if there are any problems which you would like the Council to look into the Clerk will take details either now or after the meeting.

Jean Foley
Chairman Linton Parish Council.

