

**LINTON CIVIL PARISH
BROMSASH GORSLEY & LINTON**

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

Report from the Chairman.

First may I thank all the Councillors and the Clerk for their service to the community during the past year. We end the year with one vacancy, so please consider volunteering to join us. I would also like to send our very best wishes to Cllr. Laura Cluely who is expecting a baby in the near future and to her husband Cllr. Mike Cluely – I think this must be a first for the Parish Council!!

During 2008/9 we held our usual meetings with members of the public always present. Parishioners are always welcome – to ask questions and suggest items for the agenda. All planning applications which we have received are also available to view and comment upon.

Our Responsible Finance Officer & Clerk Mrs Annette Steele has capably managed the finances of the Council and ensured that all expenditure is approved by the Councillors. After approval all cheques are required to be signed by two councillors. A current account sheet is issued each month for scrutiny by the Council. The accounts are also subject to an internal audit by Mrs Elizabeth Denbigh who is independent of the Council, we are very grateful to her for carrying out this task. They are then sent for external audit by the Audit Commission. The accounts for 2007/8 passed with flying colours, those for 2008/9 are being prepared.

The Parish Precept for 2009/10 is as last year £5,800 which is approximately 24p per week for a Band D council tax payer. Every penny of income and expenditure is accounted for and the accounts are officially published for public scrutiny each year.

The Parish Clerk Mrs Annette Steele in addition to her duties as Finance Officer carries out all the administrative duties of the Council. This is done very efficiently and once again it has been a pleasure to work with her.

Planning & Enforcement The number of planning applications has remained fairly constant. We continue to make carefully considered comments taking into account the policies of the Unitary Development Plan and hope that Herefordshire Council will take heed. Sometimes they do!! Nothing further has been heard this year about development at Hartleton, nor Wind Turbines in the parish.

Highways Meetings have continued with Herefordshire Council and Cllr Harry Bramer. We have also had joint meetings with Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council and Aston Ingham Parish Council in the hope of progressing various highway safety matters. We are now waiting for a Vehicle Activated Sign to be installed near to Gorsley Goff's School and to get nearer to achieving a 20mph speed limit outside the school- and waiting – and waiting. If anyone has complaints about the highways such as potholes please let us know and we will try to get them remedied.

The Web-Site www.lintonpc-herefordshire.gov.uk has continued and can also be accessed from the Herefordshire Council web-site if you wish. The minutes of all our meetings are published on the web-site.

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Parish Footpaths Richard Baker our Footpaths Officer has done sterling work this year on the public footpaths and has plans for further progress during the coming year. Mr Baker will give a fuller report later in this meeting.

Linton Quarry (in Gorsley) Following the talk we had from Moira Jenkins & Jessica Donaldson of the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust at this meeting last year, further work has been done with scrub & tree clearance with a large amount of the cost being borne by Natural England and Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust. Information boards have been installed and work will continue to enable supervised groups to access the quarry and learn of its unique qualities.

Allotments These continue to flourish, the Clerk, one of whose duties is to collect the rents has received many complimentary comments about the state of the allotments. Unfortunately the rabbits have yet to learn which side of the fence is theirs!

The Parish Action Plan Unfortunately we are not much further forward with highway problems but we live in hope. A programme of road and lane signage is starting shortly and we should see some progress with this in the near future.

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.