

## LOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – Annual Report April 2013 – March 2014

The Parish Council held six ordinary meetings during the year plus 2 extra-ordinary meetings for the purpose of interviews for Parish Clerk following the retirement of David Edge at the end of June 2013.

### **1. Staffing matters.**

Following David Edge's retirement the Council held meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June to interview candidates for the position of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. Mrs Lynda McCormack was duly appointed with a probationary period to the end of January and took up her post at the beginning of July 2013. Mrs McCormack's appointment was confirmed at the Parish Council meeting in January 2014.

### **2. Elections**

Following the Local Council elections in May Cllr's. Mrs. T Barton, J Beard, P Butters, S Hardin, B. Parker and R. Stokes were duly elected. The Parish welcome two new co-opted members Cllr's. S. Geary and Mrs. S. Witherspoon. Cllr Hardin was elected Chairman and Cllr Butters, Vice Chair. Contact details for local councillors are on Loppington Parish Council website.

### **3. Highways**

The Parish Council maintains an agreement with Shropshire Council for cutting of roadside verges on unclassified roads in the Parish. Shropshire Council introduced its Road Safety Policy in March 2013 which requires community support for road safety issues. Members of the public may report issues to the Parish Council who will consider the request and submit a list of those they support to Shropshire Council 3 times per year.

### **4. Planning**

Shropshire Council is obliged to consult the Parish Council regarding planning applications in Loppington. 16 applications have been received so far during this financial year; including three major applications which are currently pending a decision. Shropshire Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, which came into effect in January 2012, is now rolling out to Parish Councils. CIL is the amount payable on implementation of larger commercial and housing developments and designed to fund infrastructure in Shropshire. Shropshire Council's policy is for the majority of the funding to be spent if possible in the Parish where the development is carried out. Loppington has been allocated 311.83 as a result.

## **5. Parish Amenities**

The Council wishes to express its appreciation and thanks all those volunteers and organisations who have helped maintain Council property including the War Memorial, Pump, Tan Pit, Burlton Bus Shelter and Notice boards and kept public areas clean and tidy by repainting, planting, grass cutting, weeding and general maintenance. The Council has contributed towards the upkeep of St. Michael's Churchyard and supported AED volunteers.

## **6. Public Relations**

The Council has continues to publish council matters and issues in the Village News and holds public participation sessions during its Parish Council meetings. The website is up and running and will be developed further and updated by the Parish Clerk and include publication of minutes of Parish Council meetings.

## **7. Meetings and Consultations**

Members of the Parish Council have continued to represent the Parish on Shropshire Association of Local Councils and Shropshire Area Committee of the Association. Members represent the Parish on Shropshire Council Wem and Shawbury Local Area Committee. The Parish Council have been invited to represent the Parish on the Clive medical practice patient group. Parish Council maintains a good relationship with Cllr Brian Williams, Shropshire Councillor.

## **8. Crime and Safety**

The Council thanks David Edge who has continued the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the Parish. Reported crime in the area is low.

Baschurch Parish Council, with support of adjoining parishes affected by the proposal to close the fire Station (which includes Loppington), have been successful in their campaign and Baschurch Fire Station will be retained.

## **9. Financial**

The Council received a satisfactory Auditors report for the financial year 2012/2013.

L.J. McCormack March 2014