

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH MAY 2012, AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

In the absence of the Chairman it was resolved that Cllr Eassom would chair the meeting.

Present: Cllrs Coates, Eldridge, Eassom, Knott, Moore, Smith, Tunkle, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, the Clerk, and four members of the public. Mr & Mrs P Robins, Mrs D Richardson, and Mrs M Murdoch.

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone and refreshments were served.

1. Apologies were received from C/Cllr Mrs Compton, Mr P Wartnaby, Mrs J Jackson, Mrs S Jones, Mr J Richardson, and Cllr Rollins.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2011 were signed as a correct record at the May 2011 meeting, and were then published on the website.

a) There were no matters arising.

3. **Annual Report 2011/12**

Presented by the Vice Chairman

The year 2011/12 has as usual involved a variety of issues to be dealt with which are highlighted in this report.

After a great deal of time and effort a PARISH PLAN for Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe has been completed and adopted. The Parish Council thank everyone who worked so hard on the Steering Committee, to come to this conclusion, particularly Brian Melling and Rob Jones.

Some of the main concerns raised in this report will be addressed by the Parish Council over the coming months, in particular Neighbourhood Watch, and Traffic Calming. It was felt that new initiatives were needed regarding traffic problems. Weight restrictions and other schemes are to be discussed in liaison with WCC Transport.

Cllr Eassom represents the Parish Council on the Warwick Rural West Community forum Panel, which is a very useful meeting for keeping up with administrative changes and communication on local matters with PCSO's, WCC and WDC representatives. We have been able to obtain grants from the Forum for some maintenance work on the memorial area, and towards production of the Parish Plan and Jubilee celebrations. The Forum meets quarterly and is open to the public.

We have been successful in obtaining reaccreditation of Quality Status, essential in the current climate of the Localities Bill.

As mentioned in last year's report the sale of POLICE HQ is still on the cards. After many delays the outline planning application for the retirement village is likely to be dealt with in May by the Planning Committee. If successful it will be put on the market shortly afterwards and any purchaser will have to make an application for full planning permission. The Parish Council have not put forward any objection to this application but there will be some matters to be addressed when full planning is applied for.

Since the announcement by the Warwickshire Police Authority that they intend to close the Woodcote headquarters building and to sell the property for development as a 'Care Village', the Parish Council has

been exploring the possibility of acquiring the woodland which surrounds the estate. If successful, the intention would be to open up the woodland for public access through the creation of a series of woodland trails which would eventually be linked to the network of footpaths surrounding the golf course and the Centenary Way. A great deal of preparatory work would be necessary to make the existing woodland safe, to build the trails and to provide access but this project would, we believe, provide a real amenity to the village and to specific interest groups such as the Ramblers Association, the Horticultural Society and the School, to name but a few.

The woods provides a habitat for some unique flora and fauna and we have therefore recruited the support of the Warwickshire College, Department of Arboriculture in order to gain advice on how best to develop the woodland whilst at the same time preserving its unique features. It is also foreseen that the College would maintain an on-going involvement as part of their educational programme.

There is much to be done, not least the acquisition of the woodland itself, but we have received very positive support from the leadership of Warwick District Council and negotiations with the agents representing the Police Authority are getting underway. These are early days, but the Parish Council is committed to what could be a very exciting addition to the amenities of the village. Anyone requiring further detail on the project should approach Councillor Smith.

Our County and District Councillors, Mrs Compton and Mrs Gallagher always provide invaluable assistance at all times, and our thanks go to them for all their support.

With regards to village maintenance, benches were repainted, overgrown foliage trimmed, and improved footway lighting installed along part of Warwick Road. Some local paths have been widened, in liaison with the Community Payback scheme. Water leaks under the railway bridge were finally repaired by Severn Trent, but not before water leaked into the electric cables, causing the recent power cut.

Continual petty vandalism in the play area particularly to the gates is causing financial liabilities. A decision has been made to replace all three gates with metal ones.

Unfortunately, dog fouling is again on the increase particularly on the sports field. Warning notices are displayed and it is a fineable offence to allow dogs to foul public footpaths.

Work conducted by Councillors has helped to keep costs down, anyone wishing to volunteer to assist with village maintenance from time to time, would be very welcome.

On the retirement of Mrs Catherine Sandwell as the Parish Council's representative for the LEIGH FOUNDATION Trust. Mrs Katie Kingston was appointed her successor.

Communication is very important, the Parish DIRECTORY and Parish Council BULLETIN are published and circulated annually. The monthly report from the Parish Council is included in the LINK magazine, and it is hoped all these publications are useful to the community. All details about the Parish Council are on our website, www.leekwootton.org.uk.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Annual Return 2010/11

The annual return for April 2010 – March 2011 was submitted to auditors Clement Keys for inspection in June 2011, and approved in July. The usual notices were displayed at that time and copies of the return are always available for scrutiny.

The 2011/12 accounts and annual return will be scrutinised by our internal auditor, and submitted for approval by auditors Clement Keys by July 2012. Details will be posted on local noticeboards.

For this financial year 2012/13, £5154.41 was brought forward, the Precept remains the same, at £7262, a very modest amount compared with some Parish Councils. In the current economic climate it is felt prudent to keep costs to a minimum, Concurrent income will be £2980, a total income of £10242. We endeavour to have a reserve of £3000 at all times if possible.

A large amount of our budget is spent on safety and maintenance of the playground, play equipment, and general maintenance to village areas, together with annual grants to the Church, Sports Club and Royal British Legion. £500 has also been donated to the Village Hall kitchen extension fund, and £100 is promised towards the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June. Attempts have been made over the past year to keep costs down and this has been successful, with a great deal of general maintenance being completed by Councillors. However, if we are to maintain the play area to a high standard costs will inevitably rise, some new equipment would be advantageous, and continual maintenance of the existing items is necessary. The accounts are always available for inspection by appointment.

5. Reports from village organisations.

Written reports were received from All Saints Primary School, the Brownies, the Local History Group, and Mothers Union. Verbal reports were received from the Chairman of the Village Hall committee, the Trustees of the Memorial/Recreation Ground, and the Horticultural Society. (see appendixes).

The Chairman thanked everyone for these reports, which will be published on our website.

6. Reports from County Councillor Mrs Compton, and District Councillor Mrs Gallagher.

Cllr Mrs Compton reported on an interesting and eventful year at the County Council, with the maxim "Going for Growth" not easy with budgetary restraints but are endeavouring to encourage business and employment, and improving education standards to make Warwickshire a safe and healthy place to live. Services over the County should be spread in a fair manner, and the aim is to work with neighbouring authorities and engage Parish Councils and Community Forums in consultations. Schools are going through major reorganisations with over 60% having opted for academy status. Transport is always a concern and WCC have entered into a maintenance contract with Balfour Beatty and Coventry City Council. The year's budget has not been increased, and efforts are being made to dispose of surplus office space and find a heritage use for the Old Shire Hall and Courts.

Cllr Mrs Gallagher reported that WDC had managed better than a lot of other Councils through their "Fit for the Future" programme and careful housekeeping, and have made some savings without cutting services. For the second year running there was no increase in Council Tax. Recycling is excellent, with no collections missed during the winter, and a percentage of the income raised from the textile collection is given to train a Guide Dog. Linden Walk in Leamington is almost complete and the Arches will be opened by HRH Duke of Gloucester on June 7th. The Spa Centre with its new seating and programming is going from strength to strength.

The Olympic torch will be coming through the District on Sunday July 1st, and there are many activities planned for the Jubilee celebrations. Both Councillors concluded by thanking the Councillors and Clerk for their support over the past year.

7. Issues of particular local importance from the Community.

Referring to the Woodcote woodland project Cllr Smith appealed for local organisations to send him expressions of support which are needed for the application to LEADER for funding.

Mrs Richardson confirmed that problems regarding her boundaries and footpaths, have finally been resolved.

Cllr Eassom reminded everyone about the Diamond Jubilee celebrations to be held on Sunday 3rd June on the Recreation Ground.

8. There being no other matters the meeting closed at 8.50.

Signed.....*DW Eassom*.....Date.....*12.6.2012*.....

Reports from village organisations attached:

Appendix a – All Saints Primary School

Appendix b – 1st Leek Wootton Brownies

Appendix c – Leek Wootton History Group

Appendix d – Mothers Union

Appendix e – Leek Wootton Village Hall

Appendix f – LeekWootton Horticultural Society

Appendix g – Trustees of the War Memorial Ground.

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 8 May 2012 by the Trustees of the Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground.

We are pleased to record the appointment of Nigel Stallard as a further Trustee.

We are in course of renewing the Lease to the Sports Club which we hope to complete shortly.

It will be necessary to document the extension of the Village Hall when the enlargement of the kitchen is completed.

In each case where there are Leases rents have to be increased to reflect inflation but the Trustees adopt the policy of recycling those funds so far as possible for the purposes of the two organisations occupying the ground which implement the purposes for which the Trust was established. The consequence of this is that after payment of Public Liability Insurance premiums the balance held is small and we cannot fund any substantial new initiatives.

After consultation with the Sports Club we agreed that the smaller of two beech trees adjacent to the boundary with Yew Trees could be felled at the expense of our neighbour and subsequently the boundary hedge and trees were pruned and tidied on the Eastern boundary. There was a grant from the Community Forum for the major part of the cost and we were grateful for the balance contributed by the Sports Club, The Village Hall, the Horticultural Society and the Parish Council.

We have a proposal to plant a tree to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee for the Beaver Scouts. When there is a more precise request we will consult with the Sports Club about this.

If the Parish Plan involves the Recreation Ground we will endeavour to implement any worthwhile proposals in consultation with all others affected.

LEEK WOOTTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting 8 May 2012

2011 was another good year for the Society and we continue to enjoy splendid support from the local community.

The Annual Outing, on 5th June, organized as usual by Tom and Margaret Powell, ably assisted by Renee Perkins, took in 2 smaller gardens at which the traveling members were the guests of the owners. Burrows Garden and Snelston Hall near Ashbourne in Derbyshire were deemed to be an outstanding success such as to be regarded as "the best ever".

The Show, on 20th August, attracted such a huge number of entries that our Show Secretary just managed to fit them all into the hall. Income was at a very healthy level with all the stalls providing good contributions, enhancing an already strong financial position. Income from the auction of produce demonstrates that this has become something of a Village institution. Support continues from local businesses in the form of prizes for the raffle and we are grateful for that support.

The Christmas buffet on 17th December, held in the Village Hall, was a huge success and also seems to be well cemented, as a social, in the life of our village.

In financial terms our strong position enabled us to make a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the extension to the Village Hall and £100 towards the cost of hedge management around the grounds.

The works to extend the Hall will not impact on the plans for the Show or the December social in 2012.

So, looking forward with notes for your diary in 2012,

The Outing will be on Sunday 10th June visiting The Old Rectory at Sudborough, nr Kettering and Kelmarsh Hall, nr Northampton.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 18th August. We may see even more interesting additions to the Schedule and Mr Bernard Vescandis will be returning as the children's' entertainer. Photographic categories will be 'Farming' and 'Scenes in the UK'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years.

The December Social will be on Saturday 15th 2012

My thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months. Our President, Peter Wartnaby stepped down at the AGM. We owe Peter a debt of gratitude for his service with the Society, not only in this recent role but also for past support. Thank you Peter. Our new President is Mrs Audrey Gillitt who has been so supportive over many years.

Whilst it obviously gives me great pleasure to report to you the successes achieved over the year, it is also necessary to advise you of my concerns. My colleagues on the Committee will no doubt forgive me for stating that none of us are getting any younger. They have, with predecessors, maintained a strong and vibrant Society but without new blood I worry for the future. I have to again appeal for volunteers, particularly to younger members of the community, to come forward to strengthen the Committee and cement the Society's future. Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 members, including the Officers, and we are currently at 14 members.

Anyone interested in the work we do should contact Mary Murdoch or me and we will be pleased to talk them.

Since our AGM members of our committee have had health problems, i.e. replacement hips & knees, gall stones, operations etc. We are hoping they will all be well for our forthcoming outing and the Annual show.

Brian Melling Chairman

LEEK WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL LIMITED

Annual Report to the Parish Council

The Hall continues to achieve and perform, bookings have increased and any loss of user's have been quickly replaced.

The extension of the kitchen, after some delay is to begin on 27th August 2012. The Hall will then be closed until 3rd December 2012. We have incorporated in our fund raising monies to decorate & refurbishment of various parts of the building that have become tired after over 12 years of use.

We have a Dinner Dance set for May 25th, where we hope to raise £ 8.000 in addition a number of committee members are organising other fund raising events.

The committee continues share its duties of managing and maintaining the Hall to its high standard.

My grateful thanks to all of the committee for their efforts and support during the past year. The village is very lucky to have them.

Ros Commander

Chairman



Mothers Union is a worldwide community inspired by Christ to support families today. The objectives are:

- Promoting and supporting marriage
- Encouraging and equipping parents in their role to develop the faith of their child
- Being a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- Campaigning for conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- Helping those whose family life has met with adversity

During 2011 Our Leek Wootton Branch aimed to support and resource our church community.

New members joined at our Rededication Service on Mothering Sunday.

We supported two term-time groups for pre-schoolers, toddlers, babies and carers:

Leek Wootton Stay & Play at the village hall - Thursdays 10-11.30am.

smALL SAINTS - 3rd Wednesdays of the month in church 9-10am: Coffee and cakes with a story, songs, prayers and play exploring the bible and Christian faith.

We offered refreshments and 'goody bags' for couples attending the Marriage Preparation Day and provided a 'Quiet Space' of creative prayer at the Village Fete.

Members prayed for families worldwide and for our village school and community.

Many families received the Christian lifestyle magazine 'Families First'.

During 2011 we fundraised for 'The Wheels Appeal' – parts for Mothers Union Vehicles in Africa, took part in 'The Angel Tree Project' buying a Christmas gift on behalf of an unnamed prisoner at Rugby Prison, where MU members in our Diocese, visit, for his son and made cakes for Warwick University Globe Café.

We promoted the MU's national 'Bye Buy Childhood' campaign against the commercialization and sexualisation of children and took part in the independent Review led by Reg Bailey for The Government as it sought to address these issues.

Our monthly meetings -Thursday daytime or evenings, included meals, prayers, leading at a Holy Communion Service and speakers; Helen Cornwall-Jones - 'My Life as a Vicars Wife' and Andrew Jackson - 'Loose in Ecuador'

Janet Jackson (Branch correspondent)

LEEK WOOTTON HISTORY GROUP

At the beginning of May 2011 the History Group embarked upon its HLF funded project based on the wartime diary of Doreen Wright of Wootton Court.

To date the Group has achieved almost 100% of the targets set:

- To have the diary and related collection of papers fully catalogued and made available online
- To transcribe Doreen's Diary and key documents of the collection
- To involve the older generation through an oral history activity
- To create a travelling exhibition
- To involve visitors to the exhibition in a reminiscence book activity
- To stage a range of talks and workshops within the project calendar (this has included Interview Skills Workshops; an Introductory Evening; World War II Walk, exhibition and wartime tea; 'Making the Most of Your Rations' and a Creative Writing Workshop)
- To produce learning packs for schools from the research on Doreen's Diary and the information gained from the oral histories
- To produce a book of Doreen's Diary (launch and exhibition Saturday, 26 May from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Village Hall)

Lesley Eldridge
Secretary/Treasurer



Girlguiding

Warwickshire

girls in the lead

1st Leek Wootton Brownies

May 2012

At the beginning of May 2011 we started with a full pack of 16 brownies and 3 young leader helpers. During the summer term we made the most of the nice weather and played games outside and went on penny hikes around the village. The Brownies enjoyed running the church fete stall in June and pond dipping at the Vicarage.

Throughout the autumn term we were very busy. The Brownies gained their cooking badge where they learnt about hygiene, healthy foods and clearing away. We attended the District Swimming Gala at Newbold Comyn and were very proud of the brownies when they gained enough points overall to win the shield. We took part in the Harvest and Remembrance Parade at All Saints' Church and even had "I'm a Brownies get me out of here" evening. The Brownies had great fun getting sweets out of jelly using their mouths, feeling in boxes that were filled with noodles, branches and furry objects! We finished the term off with a Christmas meal at the Clarendon Arms.

The winter term has been equally busy. We saved enough Sainsbury's' vouchers to have a ballet session, which proved very enjoyable. A lady from Kenilworth School came in for two meetings and completed the Science badge with the Brownies. They discovered how to make salt crystals and learned how to propel a balloon along a piece of string using a straw. They attended the Guide table top sale where we had a very successful chocolate tombola. We took part in the Thinking Day celebrations with the rest of the district and went to the Warwickshire Gang show at the Spa centre.

We said a sad goodbye to Heather Marshall who had college work commitments and so could no longer help at Brownies. The Brownies gave her a card in which they had all designed a section, a Brownies mug, badge, flowers and chocolate. We are very grateful for all her time and help she has given to the unit. We have only said goodbye to three Brownies this year and so have a very old unit, with most of the Brownies being 8yrs old and over.

Steph Jones
(Brown Owl)

Sharon Renshaw
(Tawny Owl)

ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEEK WOOTTON ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Once again we have experienced a successful year in many respects and this report identifies some of the highlights of our year. 2011 was a special year for all church schools as the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible was celebrated at the same time as the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the National Society. We began the year with our Cross of Nails Pilgrimage around the village, visiting sites of significance for the development of our own school in our community. We were able to parade our banner kindly designed and made by Katie Kingston and Helen Eldridge. As part of these celebrations we were pleased to be invited to contribute to the diocesan service at the cathedral last November.

Admissions

We continue to be a popular school with more parents seeking places for their children than we are able to accommodate. Places are very carefully allocated for each Reception intake using a range of criteria that are prioritised and agreed after consultation with the Local Authority and Diocesan Board of Education, and meet the requirements of the code of practice for admissions produced by the Department for Children and Families. We are firmly committed to meeting the needs of the village and families with existing children in the school and this has been possible at the point of entry to the Reception class. This year 20 places were offered in Reception this year. Currently we have 138 children on roll.

The Curriculum

As a school we aim to enable all of our pupils to attain as highly as they are able to and to be able to make good progress. Standards in the core curriculum of literacy, numeracy and science continue to be high at the end of both Key Stages 1 and 2 and results show that the school is achieving above national expectations. This is a tribute to the excellent teaching skills of the staff, the very positive attitudes children have to learning and the tremendous support we receive from parents. The school continues to be committed to ongoing school improvement and the curriculum is reviewed regularly to enhance opportunities for all of the children.

Broad Opportunities

All Saints' committed to providing a rich broad curriculum where all the wonderful and varied talents of our children are recognised and celebrated. All of the children have participated in history and geography, sport, music and art. As a member of the University of the First Age, termly Super Learning Days have enabled children to develop greater awareness of themselves as learners.

Super Learning Days continued when the whole school role joined together on our UFA day to look at 'The King James Bible' through the work of a range of artists. We have begun to think about the achievements of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes during the Spring Term through our theme of 'Learning Heroes'. Our opening assembly was led by Melanie Barratt (nee Easter) who inspired us all with her recollections of winning medals at the Sydney and Los Angeles games. During the term we learned more about Riding for the Disabled and Jim and Nicola's forthcoming roles as volunteers at the London Games. Maggie, Pauline Kermode's friend, was certainly a favourite learning hero.

Children in Years 3 and 4 once again enjoyed the 'Sleepover' and the residential visit to the Kingswood Centre in Norfolk enabled children in Years 5 and 6 to develop their environmental science understanding through exciting first hand experiences and using ICT. These experiences, combined with action adventure opportunities, enable all of the children to develop greater independence, self esteem and self confidence.

All Saints' Extra

Children are now able to arrive at school from 8.00 each morning for Early Risers, and stay until 5.15 at Chill Out Zone. This provision is increasingly popular with parents and children and a wide range of different activities are available for children to enjoy. During the year we have also increased opportunities during the school holidays. Some activity days are run by our own staff, others by outside providers who have included sports, art and circus skills. Many children have participated in, enjoyed and represented the school in a range of sporting activities. Teams have taken part in netball, football, the KDPSA Swimming Gala, Cross Country races and athletics. This year they have also been particularly successful winning the Year 6 netball tournaments in both Kenilworth and Warwick and the Year 5 Kenilworth netball tournament. Year 6 is the league netball champions whilst the Key Stage 2 swimming team have won the Kenilworth Swimming Gala for the third successive year.

Building Development

It is now 12 months since our new extension was opened. This has been fully used over the past year in many different ways. It has been an invaluable base for All Saints' Extra and has allowed us to extend our provision during term time and holidays. It is fully used throughout the school day for 1-1, small groups and whole year group teaching in science and art as well as food technology. We have also been able to host a range of community opportunities including developing our links with Leek Wootton Historical Society through the 'Doreen's' Diary Project'. Following consultation with the children and fundraising by the P.T.F.A, the Key Stage 2 toilets have been completely refurbished and are now brightly coloured and far more comfortable to use.

Church Partnership

All of the children have visited All Saints' Church each half term for an open assembly where we have been joined by parents and members of the community. Some of these events have been particularly special experiences.

At the end of the summer term our Leavers assembly was held in church during which Year 2 received 'Pots of Gold' and Year 6 were presented with Bibles and books to support their move to secondary school. Once again we appreciate the continuing support of local trusts that funded these gifts.

The school hosted Story Keepers Holiday Bible Club which had a good sense of community well being throughout the week

It was very special to be able to join with the church and village in the annual carol service. The warmth of the welcome on occasions such as this embody the unique links that we share as church and school working together. The Easter assembly dramatised by Years 3 and 4 is a highlight of the year and we are pleased that so many members of the church congregation share this with us. Many thanks to Mothers Union who provide refreshments and a welcome to us on these occasions.

The church- school partnership is much more than a series of events however special they might be. We know and that we are held in your prayers and value this tremendously.

Links with the community.

As a school that has our history rooted in the heart of our village community, links that we are able to develop with individuals and groups are very important to us. During the year the whole school has worked together to celebrate festivals through drama and music and we are pleased that many members of the community have joined us at our Harvest and Christmas celebrations. The oldest children in the school delighted us with their considerable talents when they performed Midsummer Night's Dream at the end of the year.

Gardening Club were very active during the Summer Term and as a result of their horticultural skills and knowledge were winners in the Kenilworth & District Agricultural Society School Gardens Competition. They entered some of their produce in the Leek Wootton Horticultural Show and discovered some of it was prize winning. We are pleased that Scouts continue to use the hall on Monday evenings.

The annual shared Young at Heart- Year 6 visit is an occasion that is looked forward to by young and old. We really appreciate Mrs Hillary David's willingness to continue this well established tradition. The visit to Malvern was a great success.

During the year we have begun to work with Leek Wootton History Group on the exciting project, 'Doreen's Diary'. We are looking forward to our special day in May and the World War II Walk in June.

Once again the school hosted the annual 'Children's Society Box Opening' which was attended by people from the wider community.

We are always conscious of how very fortunate we are to be a school in a community such as Leek Wootton where education is valued and appreciated, and to be a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School which places us in the hearts of our church community.

Thank you for all of the support you give, in whatever capacity, to have made this possible

Sue Patterson

Head Teacher April 2012

Well its that time of year again when we do our annual report,

As you will all know times are hard, but we at WDC have faired better than a lot of other councils through our Fit For the Future programme, and careful housekeeping, we have made some savings without cutting services.

For the 2nd year running there has been no increase in the Council Tax, which as you know affects everyone, I would also like to point out that I think our bin collection and re cycling is second to none, all through the winter, never missing a collection, and now with our re cycling we have joined up with the Guide Dogs for the blind, and we give a percentage of the money we raise from our textile collection to train a Guide Dog, Zoe who works for the team has a golden Labrador who she takes in to work with her, he is called Warwick, and is fully supported by WDC.

I will touch on Kites Nest Lane, the gypsies lost their appeal and must be off the site in September, we are in ongoing negotiations, do not hold your breath, but we do have the law on our side, I would like to say that I believe the residents of Kites Nest and the rest of the

community have behaved so much better than those of Meriden, on other planning matters, we are still waiting a decision on Faire Tale Farm appeal, but Shrewley won the appeal against Greenfingers which would have been an enormous blot on the greenbelt, thankfully the inspector agreed with us.

Parish plans are well on there way, Leek Wootton have just completed theirs, well done to them, Shrewley are well on the way, and Wroxall have just started.

Shrewley lost what little bus service they had, so I was able to raise the Travel Tokens for them from £25 to £50 every little helps.

Linden Walk in Leamington is almost complete, I would urge you to go and have a look at the Arches, they look superb, and will be opened on June 7th by HRH Duke of Gloucester, and I have been chosen with Archie Pitt from the Friends of the Pump rooms to accompany him and walk the Linden Arch, so that is very exciting, talking about exciting we at WDC are very happy to announce that on Sunday July 1st the Olympic torch is coming through our district, it will arrive from Stratford into Warwick up the Stratford rd have a photo stop at the castle, over the castle bridge, along Myton Rd, into

Leamington Spa lower ave, up the Parade along Kenilworth Rd, and then into Kenilworth high st and on to Coventry, so anyone who want to see the torch relay will be able to, it is also a Sunday so children will be off school, also during the day there will be family fun days at St Nixs park in Warwick, the Pump Room Gardens in Leamington Spa, and the Abbey Fields in Kenilworth, this is a once in a lifetime event, and as LOCOG said, when the torch is in your district, the eyes of the world are on you, so no pressure there then,

And of course just in case you had forgotten its Jubilee Year, with all sorts of activities going on within the district, this is a very special year.

Now just a quick mention about the Spa Centre, with the new seating, a face lift, new programming, and food served before the shows, its going from strength to strength, but if you have not been to see for yourself please do, the Cinema that also has new seating is showing great films at half the price of the main cinema.

I would like to finish as always and give a big thank you to the Chairman of the Parish council and all the

councillors for their support once again through out the last year.

2012

June to consider turning off street lights in certain roads between midnight and 5am – this should result in a saving after three years – as many lights will have to be replaced before we can make this change.

The year's budget, of which the county element is about 80% has not been increased this year as we take advantage of the government's offer of a grant which is equivalent to a 2.5% rise. This may affect next year's budget as this is not a year on year grant.

In spite of all the reductions in money available the Youth Service and Library Service in Warwickshire which were threatened with closure has not happened with volunteers coming forward to help run these services. The Libraries in particular have not closed and indeed we have a new library in Warwick now open. Also the Registration Service, which now caters for Births, Marriages and Deaths is located in Shire Hall, which along with the One Stop Shop and Post Office is making good use of this building. We are still making great efforts to dispose of surplus office space and finding a heritage use for the Old Shire Hall and Courts.

Warwick Rural West Community Forum, of which I am co-chairman, will be becoming increasingly influential in the future as the Warwick Area Committee composed of all County Councillors representing Warwick District has been disbanded and many consultations will rely heavily on the Community Forum.

I am pleased to say that funding has been obtained from the Community Forum towards various initiatives and also providing a grant towards the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

I have attended Parish Council meetings regularly and have given a report from Warwickshire County Council to the Parish Council. I wish to thank the clerk, chairman and councillors for their support during the year enabling me to fulfil my role as your representative.

Jose Compton, Warwickshire County Councillor.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS SPRING 2012

It has been an interesting and eventful year on the County Council. The maxim 'Going for Growth' is not easy with the Budgetary restraints but we have endeavoured to encourage business and employment especially with the under 25's by reducing NEETS and improving education standards and to make Warwickshire a safe and healthy place to live.

To make sure that services across the County are spread in a fair manner we must work with our neighbouring authorities and District Councils and engage Parish Councils and Community Forums in consultations. We expect to match and take advantage of a government grant to improve broadband in rural areas. The fire service has formed a strategic alliance with Northampton and the police force too is proposing to work more closely with West Mercia Police – this will make savings on back office costs. In November there will be an election for a police commissioner and the programme to replace the police committee with Police Panels.

With the ageing population set to grow WCC 's services for adults are becoming more of a commissioning agency paying the private sector to run homes and carer services. Public Health is transferring from the NHS to the local authority and have already moved into Barrack Street offices in Warwick . Major reorganisation of the health service, now that it has passed through parliament, will result in a new body called 'Health Watch' overseeing all health matters in Warwickshire – this will be challenged by the Scrutiny Committee at Shire Hall.

Schools in Warwickshire are going through major reorganisation with over 60% having opted for academy status – Primary Schools too are being encouraged to form clusters with a view to achieving academy status. This will of course lead to the down sizing of the Local Authorities' role in education and hence staff.

Transport is always of concern to residents – the main motorways and A road links are the responsibility of the Highway Agency but the remainder of the roads the County Council services ,with gritting taking place during the winter months we grit over 45% of the A and B roads (higher than any other County) . We have recently entered into a maintenance contract with Balfour Beatty and Coventry City Council . Luckily the allocation of £400,000 is still available to Warwick Area Committee for local schemes such as speed limits, dropped kerbs etc. A consultation will begin in