

MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN MEETING OF PEMBRIDGE PARISH 2009

Held Wednesday 6th May, 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. G. Evans	Chairman	Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. R. Phillips	Ward Cllr.	Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. J. Purslow		Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith
Cllr. P. Thomas		Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. K. Myers		
Cllr. D. Owens		Mr. C. Buchanan – Parish Warden
Cllr. K. Duggan		Mr. C. Thomas – V. Hall Committee
		Mr. A. Teale – School Headteacher
		Mr. G. Whiting – Editor Parish Magazine

+ 10 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd

Minutes of the last meeting & Matters arising from them – 7th May 2008

Approved and signed.

Parish Council Chairman's Report – Cllr. Garfield Evans

This year has again been a busy one with the full Council holding ten ordinary meetings and two special meetings. In addition, councillors attended sub-committee meetings and represented Pembridge on outside bodies including the "Shobdon Noise Abatement Group". It is essential for Councillors to keep up to date and a variety of training courses have been attended. The Council also has regular guest speakers and this year we have heard presentations on changes to the conservation area; installation of Speed Indicator devices, the new flood warning system; and housing.

The Council continues to maintain Quality Parish status, which places a heavy workload on our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Heather Harding and I thank her for her support and for all of the work that she has done this year.

Quality status brings with it added responsibilities, which in turn bring added costs. In the year to the 31st March, 2009 the Council set a precept of £19,000 against which expenditure (net of VAT reclaimed) was just over £20,000. However, income from grants and other sources resulted in a surplus of more than £3,000 for the year, which was transferred to reserves. More information on these figures will appear on the Council website once the external audit has been completed. For the year to the 31st March, 2010 the Council has set a precept of £18,000 and again, more detail can be found on the website. This figure is lower than the anticipated spending for the year and any deficit will be met by reducing the reserves held.

On the subject of finances, Mr. Keith Douglas has agreed to continue his appointment as internal auditor and to audit the accounts before they are presented to the external auditors. This is an honorary post and the Council is very grateful that Mr. Douglas is continuing.

There has been progress in a number of areas, some of which will be reported on later. The new Parish Council website is up and running at www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk and minutes of meetings are posted on the site for all to see. The Parish Council has joined the Lengthsman scheme, which has been in operation for some time and will start in Pembridge in 2009/10. Under the scheme, responsibility for maintenance along the minor roads in the Parish falls upon the Parish Council, for which they receive funding. For successful operation of the scheme, an administrator is required and anyone interested in this vital post should contact the Parish Council. For anyone who is not a Councillor, a payment to cover administration costs can be made.

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This year the Parish Council has adopted the Broxwood telephone kiosk which, although no longer in use, will continue to be a focal point for residents.

The Parish Council continues to actively support the provision of Affordable Housing for Pembridge and continues to be in regular communication with Marches Housing Association to ensure that progress is being made.

The Parish Council is pleased to continue its support of Pembridge School and is working to secure the installation of a "Speed Indicator Device". We are also investigating the possibility of a pedestrian crossing so that traffic becomes aware of the dangers to children and other residents. However, there are currently difficulties in persuading Herefordshire Council of the need for such devices and it seems that unless someone has been injured, they do not consider that a problem exists.

Every year has its disappointments and this year, it has to be the closure of Pembridge Post Office. The Parish Council fought hard for it to be retained, even if in a different format on the same site, but it eventually became clear that the consultation exercise was really nothing more than rubber stamping a decision that had already been made. We now have a visiting service and the fear is that this may also eventually be withdrawn – the saying "use it or lose it" may never be more appropriate.

Thanks are due to the volunteers who help to keep the Parish running smoothly. To the teams of parishioners who involve themselves in the erection of Christmas trees and lights and in street clean-ups.

To Tony Norman who continued as tree warden and importantly, as our flood warden; a vital service that benefits from his deep knowledge of the river and surrounding area. To Glyn Whiting, our volunteer editor of Pembridge Parish News.

My thanks go to the vice-chairman, Ken Myers for his support throughout the year and also go to my fellow Councillors who put in untold hours of work for no reward. Their dedication to the local community almost always goes unnoticed.

Finally, the annual reminder for all, that the Parish Council meets every month (other than August and December) and a notice and agenda are always posted on the Parish Council notice board at least three days before each meeting. This invites members of the public to attend and it is a continuing disappointment that more parishioners do not come along.

Parish Warden's Report – Mr. Chris Buchan (Sherriff)

I am pleased to report that, fortunately, the crime rate in the parish continues to remain low, according to the West Mercia Police Authority magazine. We have had a few incidents which were reported in the weekly bulletin of the West Mercia Constabulary's 'Local Policing News' – these were dealt with accordingly.

At our quarterly Neighbourhood Watch meetings the above incidents are included on the Agenda, and Local Police Officer Sharon Wilson and Community Safety Officer Donna Jones advise us of the action that was taken. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th August 2009 @19.30 hrs. and will be held in The New Inn.

Smart Water Village Signs

I have initiated the purchase of 3 'Smart Water' signs. The cost will be £30.00 and will be paid through our existing funds. We all thought it was a good idea, as they are a positive deterrent against crime and most of us already have our own 'Smart Water Property Coding Kit' in our houses.

At our last meeting on Tuesday 21st April 2009 it was mentioned about the increase in articulated lorries using Bridge Street as access to Kingspan etc. – they are relying on their 'Sat. Nav' system, which is taking them down this route and hence the increase in accidents. We understand that there was a restriction on HGV/Articulated vehicles using Bridge Street as access to the industrial site. We agreed it should be looked into on behalf of the village and its residents before a serious accident occurs.

Bromley O'Hare has requested our help with security around the Church during the Flower Festival over the week commencing Sat. 23rd May. Volunteers would be appreciated.

West Mercia Police has a new non-emergency telephone number, which is:

0300 333 3000

If you wish to find out the crime rate in your area, log onto: www.westmercia.police.uk

Yes!! I am still in full time employment as a Range Warden at Pontrilas Army Training Area (PATA) and am extremely busy due to the ongoing conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan etc.

Pembridge School Report – Headmaster Mr. Andrew Teale

The Last 12 Months

The number of children on roll currently is 103, and this is up to capacity. Looking ahead, the number of new intake for September is healthy, and there are no falling rolls here at this popular small primary school.

The provision of the new facilities is ongoing, but Phase 1 is completed, and opened in September 2008. This included an office, staff room, refurbished children's toilets and a new hall, which is 40% bigger and has transformed the school. It has meant more spacious assemblies, an improved lunchtime dining area, as well as opportunities for after school activities and sports facilities with places to store equipment. Everyone is welcome to come along and see the facilities.

Participation in the Challenge Award was reported on Central News and in local papers; concerning making provision for particularly gifted children. A full report can be found on the School's website:- www.pembridge.hereford.sch.uk

The Next 12 Months

The next phase of the school improvements is to complete the job and transform the old school hall into an enlarged classroom, as well as provision of a library, conference room, toilets for the youngest children and a covered walkway to join parts of the school.

We want the school to become a centre for community cohesion and be the hub of the village as it is everyone's school. There are all sorts of possibilities for use here and we'd like to work together to share the facilities. The School is very keen to work closely with the Village Hall Committee, and not to compete for events.

We have improved ICT/CAP facilities with a fast broadband connection, and we are thinking of ways to share these facilities, such as introducing an Internet Café.

Children now have tables with integral seating which is proving very useful.

The School now has a good colour photocopier, the use of which could be shared at very competitive costs.

Shortly we shall have a Conference Room for up to 12 people, with the possibility of video conferencing and business use availability.

A small Library is to be introduced – once again this could be available for community use, particularly with regard to researching historical Pembridge.

The new collapsible Stage will have a lighting bar and curtains, and could be used for amateur dramatics.

Pembridge Parish Hall Report – Mr. Christopher Thomas

On behalf of the Parish Hall Management Trustees I am pleased to report another busy year for the Hall, with high lettings leading to an excess of income over expenditure. The regular Auctions have been useful but have also presented some vehicle problems. Thank you for your support.

There is a need to bolster the Committee, so any volunteers would be appreciated.

Parish Footpath Officer's Report – Cllr. Ken Myers

Only two matters were brought up during the year; the continuing waterlogged and rutted condition of PM7 and the restricted access to PM 60 from West Street.

It would seem that without major expenditure and co-operation from adjacent landowners the state of PM 7 cannot be improved significantly and permanently, it is unlikely that any appropriate action will be undertaken in the near future.

The Herefordshire Northern Area Footpaths Officer has requested the gate adjacent to the locked gate blocking PM 60 to be kept open and the "Beware of the dog" sign be removed, and if necessary the dog kept under control.

Parish Plan Review Report – Cllr. Mrs. Julie Mifflin

Cllr. Kevin Duggan stepped in and gave an impromptu report, explaining that there have been some small changes made throughout the whole of the original Plan to upgrade it generally. It is hoped to present the revised Plan to the Parish Council in June, and then again at the Pembridge Show at the end of July. The main means of advertising the new Plan is to place it finally on the Parish Council website, with only a few hard copies being made available for purchase.

Parish Council Website Report – Cllr. Bob Pierce

The current website went live just over a year ago in March 2008, using the new domain name of www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk indicating an official government organisation. The site provides access to council minutes and other documents plus information about local services and groups. It also provides a means of sending messages to the council.

The average number of recorded visits to the site has risen steadily through the year from around 200 per month to around 340. However, the server logs show that over 60% of these visits originated from US domain names, most of which were probably automated trawls rather than personal visits. The number of genuine visits is probably no more than one or two per day. Nevertheless, in July the County Council's draft report on the Pembridge Conservation Area Appraisal was made available on the website and this has since been downloaded over 80 times.

Since the last report 8 messages have been sent to the Council via the website, of which only three were from parishioners.

There were no plans for any significant additions to the site at present. A directory of local businesses has been discussed but this would have to be a simple listing as the terms of use of the .gov.uk domain name precludes any commercial promotion. The School expressed a wish to be linked to this website.

It was suggested that a new 'Forthcoming Events and Group Activities' page be commenced also.

Community Access Point – Mr. Henry James

I have had the honour of being Chair of Pembridge CAP since the earliest days of the steering group meetings in early 2007. After a well attended meeting held by Herefordshire Council, the steering group decided to sound out public opinion in the village and surrounding parish before putting together a funding application. Much hard work and commitment followed with regular committee meetings and fundraising efforts such as helping with Party at the Park and a Race Night hosted at The Red Lion.

On 21st September 2007 the committee's hard work paid off and Pembridge CAP was officially launched by Councillor Roger Phillips at the School. Since then the committee has held sessions regularly – initially once a week and now fortnightly as the lives of the committee have become more complex. 3 members of the committee have had children since the beginning of the project and a further 2 have married. Still, attendance has been varied but is generally steady, and we now see new faces from further afield such as Staunton on Arrow and Kingsland. Currently the school also use the CAP facilities, which means that the equipment is well used by our whole community.

As we heard from the Treasurer's report, we are in a strong financial position and still have a large number of hours available at the village hall for sessions and events. Working with the School, the W.I and other local community groups, the future for Pembridge CAP looks positive.

Having been Chair for around 2 years, I feel it is time for someone else to take over from me and drive the Cap forward with their vision. I am pleased to say that at the AGM held recently, a new Chair was elected, Jak Higginson, and I am sure that the CAP will continue to flourish under his leadership.

Amenity Trust Report – Cllr. Garfield Evans – Chairman of Trustees

The last year has been a quiet one for the Trust, with no major projects currently underway. Nonetheless, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their input and support throughout the year. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs. Wendy Douglas who has been honorary treasurer of the Trust and Mrs. Jen Myers who is honorary secretary.

There have been no changes in the Trust personnel during the year.

Market Hall

As required under the terms of the restoration, a visual inspection of the building and associated works has been undertaken. No structural problems were identified by the inspection.

Car Park & Toilets

The lease of the car park and toilets from Herefordshire Council is scheduled to run for another 16 years, with an expiry date of the 15th March 2025. The running costs of the car park and toilets are underwritten by the Parish Council but by holding the lease in the name of the Trust, business rates that would be payable are avoided.

The Trustees have been pleased to be able to provide the location for the mobile postal service and a licence has been granted to the Post Office for the occupation of the car park by a Post Office van for a maximum of two hours on any one day.

In October, 2008 the Trustees received correspondence claiming that a member of the public had slipped and been injured in the public toilets in July of **2006**. The claim was considered to have little merit and was passed on to the Trust insurers for them to deal with. Other than this problem, the operation of toilets and car park has been relatively trouble free and it is pleasing to receive a number of compliments on the condition of toilets. Our cleaner deserves to be congratulated for the work that he does.

Millennium Meadow

The Millennium Meadow is owned by the Amenity Trust for the benefit of the people of Pembridge and any changes to it must be approved by the trustees. The development of the Meadow has been delegated to a group, currently chaired by Mrs. Mifflin, who's report can be found elsewhere.

Bell Tower

The bell tower has required little attention during the last year with the main item of expenditure relating to the annual service of the clock.

The trustees are aware that the bell tower is a valuable yet underused asset and are awaiting further recommendations of Trustee Duncan James for improvements to the lighting in the building and the creation of a permanent display area.

Millennium Meadow Report – Cllr. Mrs. Julie Mifflin

A new committee was formed last year. All new members were men who worked long hours at their jobs but still found time to help with the Millennium Meadow. They were keen to hold a village event to get things going again. It was agreed to hold a Bonfire Party on November 5th. There was no money available, but we initially financed it ourselves. We had a licence for a bar; one committee member took a day's holiday from work to travel to Cardiff to attend a day training course to supervise and let off fireworks. We served soup, hot dogs and mulled wine, and had crowds of people turn up.

Enough money was made to repay the £700 the event had cost to put on; a surplus has been banked towards next year's bonfire and other things on the field, possibly a basket ball net.

We are now seeking more help – someone who has some time to help look for grants etc.

Village Green Report – Cllr. Bob Pierce

Car Parking Area

The current car park surface of scalplings was completed in April 2008. This was funded by Mr. Ackle of Bridge House after an initial application to the Kingspan Community Trust resulted in an offer that fell short of the amount required for a more permanent treatment. In May 2008, the Council made a further application to the Trust for funding to replace it with a more resilient one. The Trust again made an offer of partial funding with the suggestion that the work could be phased over several years, but was unable to guarantee that further funding would be available. In June the Council decided not to pursue that approach and instead to monitor the current surface for deterioration. It was also agreed that we would grass over the scalplings, possibly as part of the conservation area work. This has now been scheduled for autumn of 2009.

At present the surface shows no obvious signs of deterioration after over a year of use which has included a number of heavy vehicles parking and turning in the car park, and a number of young drivers arriving and departing with considerable exuberance. The real test will be heavy vehicles when the area has been waterlogged for some time.

Conservation Area

At this time last year we had been awarded £12,000 by Kingspan Community Trust to create a conservation area in the northeast part of the village green, all to be completed by the end of June 2009. Early last summer, following a report from Dan Wenczek, it was accepted that the area was species-poor

and that the appropriate approach would be to convert about 50% of the area to a wet-woodland and the remainder to hay meadow.

The woodland area would be planted with locally native trees and the grassland would be mowed and baled annually in late July or early August. Some additional habitats would be created with stacks of deadwood. Trees along the river bank which had been left to grow in the past few years would be coppiced and regularly managed to increase biodiversity by reducing the shade they cast in the summer. A path would be constructed set back from the river bank, the first portion of which would be a raised boardwalk. Information boards describing the flora and fauna which might be seen would be mounted along the path.

Work is now well under way. The coppiced trees and cleared brush currently make the area look very open compared to previously, but this will not last long. Over 500 young trees have been planted with the help of children from Pembridge School. The boardwalk and path are almost complete and artwork for the information boards is in final draft form. An additional grant from Herefordshire Council Community Grant Fund was awarded to cover part of the cost of the information boards which has released some extra funds for the construction of bird, insect and bat boxes. An official opening ceremony is currently scheduled for Saturday 11th July 2009.

Parish Magazine Report – Mr. Glyn Whiting (Editor)

It's my pleasure to bring the Council my report on the Pembridge magazine for the past year.

The magazine has enjoyed a good year and has been well received by the parish. I have also received a good number of contributions from parishioners, which has kept the format varied, and interesting. During this year we have introduced an advertising sheet, which has proved very popular, and we now have a waiting list of prospective advertisers.

With regards to printing, I have been able to print most of the issues over the year but there have been occasions when an outside printer has been needed. By doing this we have kept printing costs to a minimum and I can confirm to the Council that the printing costs for the magazines that I produce will be maintained at the current rate for the coming year. I can also confirm that I am happy to continue as editor for the foreseeable future.

One area that sometimes causes concern is distribution. As we are combined with the Church for this, we sometimes find the magazine goes out late and articles lose their relevance on occasions.

Finally, I would like to thank councillors Ken Myers and Alan Stokes for their assistance during the year, and of course Mrs. Harding, the Clerk for chasing up the regular contributions and sending me lots of items of interest for publication.

Pembridge United Charities (Reg. No. 216294) – Cllr. David Owens

This report covers the period 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008

Registered Address:

Jubilee Cottage, Upper Hardwick, Pembridge, Herefordshire. HR6 9HE
Telephone: 01544 388486 E Mail: michael.coleburn@btinternet.com

Trustees:

Mr. D.T. Owens (Chair)	Mr. R.S. Gwilliams (Deputy Chair)	
Mrs. L. Jones	Mrs. A.M. Reid	Mrs. B. Norman
Dr. D. Griffith	Mr. R. Smith	Rev. J. Read

Clerk to the Trustees:

Mr. M.J. Coleburn, Jubilee Cottage, Pembridge. HR6 9HE Tel: 01544 388486

Financial:

Total Receipts: £18,438 Total Payments: £7,704 Nett: £10,734

Almshouses:

Of the ten dwellings, nine have been occupied throughout the year, the remaining dwelling (No.3 Trafford Cottages) has remained unoccupied, and the Charity has been responsible for meeting the Council Tax Bill and the standing charges from Dwr Cymru and nPower.

Duppa Cottages, Bridge Street & Trafford Cottages, East Street

Weekly Maintenance Charges for 2008:

For two bedroomed houses £31.00 per week

(£124.00 four weekly)

For single bedroomed houses £19.00 per week

(£76.00 four weekly)

Charity Land:

During the autumn, the Trustees instigated the process of registering the land and almshouses belonging to the Charity. The solicitor acting on behalf of the Charity is Mr. R.C. Smallwood of T.A. Matthews.

New Almshouses:

The trustees are in consultation with two agencies with a view to the provision of new almshouses.

Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. Roger Phillips

Herefordshire Council is committed to improving quality of services, value for money and investing in a future for the County.

As a Council we receive 20% less than the average level of funding from this Government and our schools are the 3rd lowest funded per pupil in England, receiving £3,830 per child compared to Tower Hamlets £6,522. Despite this, we have over the last two years made over 7 million pounds worth of savings and worked with public sector partners, particularly the Health Service to protect and improve services. We are committed to modernising and improving our adult social care services with extra funding for older people and dementia care.

Last year we built and opened the Rotherwas Access Road to support over 2,500 jobs and open up more potential opportunities for business. One company on that business park, Arctic Circle, bid and won a million pound contract with Morrisons which they could not have bid for had the road not been built. This was the first complete new road built in and around Hereford since the opening of Greyfriars bridge in 1968, and we were opposed all the way by several protest groups and parties.

The economic downturn has impacted on the Council's income with a fall of over £500,000 in planning fees, land charges and car parking. Last year we were earning £10,000 a day from our investments towards our revenue account. This year we are struggling to earn £2,000 a day. Even after reduced and rescheduling borrowing costs we are down by £1,500,000 per annum in our investment income. We have steered our capital budget to support local businesses and the community, and we are committed to continue to reduce the level of Council Tax increases, and this year despite a 2 million pound drop in our income, have set the second lowest increase in Council Tax in 11 years at 3.8%.

Providing Value for Money

Although the 2008/09 accounts are yet to be signed off it is expected that the Council has come in on budget. In 2009/10 all Council directorates will make 3% efficiencies in their budget for the third successive year. They will meet all non pay inflation costs from within their budgets and will operate recovery programmes during the year to prevent any overspends. Savings of 1.3 million pounds will come from modernising services, cutting costs and reducing staffing levels. Vacant jobs in Highways will be cut to save £900,000 p.a. In order to make more sustained savings in future years the Council will need to reduce the number of buildings it operates from and improve administration systems, subject to a strong business case being made.

Budgets in Adult Care will be increased by £375,000 and Childrens Safeguarding by £250,000, in part to address the problems of recruitment in Childrens social work.

The Council will be implementing a new Waste Collection Contract retaining weekly bin collections and increasing recycling to 90% of all Herefordshire homes with the introduction of wheelie bins. Free public swimming for all over 60's and under 16's came into effect on 1st April.

Helping Herefordshire through Credit Crunch

In our Capital budget for 2009/10 we have recognised the huge problem homelessness could be for our County. We have a Mortgage Rescue Scheme which will provide grants to families to stay in their own homes by allowing housing associations to purchase the property and lease it back. We also have a low cost ownership scheme and a project to encourage empty properties back into use. The alternative in many cases is that the Council would have to house families in rented accommodation at huge cost to the council taxpayer.

In Hereford we are supporting the Cathedral Close regeneration, relocating the retail open market into High Town, drawing up plans to update and improve Butter Market to celebrate local produce, and have allocated £30,000 to support Shops during the downturn.

To support the local building industry we are identifying sites in our ownership for Affordable houses, investing in improvements in our Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools, refurbishing the Merchant House at Ledbury, part of Minster College for a new Youth Centre, and modernising the Library at Ross. During the next 12 months the Hereford Academy and the Minster College will be rebuilt.

To support the future development of the City we will relocate the Livestock Market and deliver our promise as Agricultural Landlords. We will invest over 1.5 million pounds over three years to improve and meet new legislation requirements on our Smallholdings Estate.

Nearly a quarter of a million pounds will be spend on providing disabled facilities grant adaptations within residents' homes in order that they can live independently and assist in early hospital discharge.

We continue to work with the Regional Development Agency to support Businesses throughout the County, particularly at Rotherwas and Leominster Enterprise Park and we will provide an additional business opportunity on our land at Model Farm, Ross.

Working for our Future

This year under the Chairmanship of Cllr. Kay Swinbourne we helped secure Radiotherapy for the Renton Unit at Hereford Hospital. In August the Chairman of the PCT and myself lobbied the Welsh Assembly on their reorganisation of Welsh PCT's to ensure the viability of Hereford Hospital was not threatened, and I spoke at a conference in Newtown recently again on the matter.

Improving transport links in Hereford and Leominster is a priority for the conservative administration. We have bid for 60 million pounds from the Regional Funding Allocations towards the building of an outer distributor road beginning in 2013, with the remainder of the costs to be met from the developer contributions on the 8,000 new houses in and around Hereford by 2025. We are bitterly opposed by many pressure and political groups.

In our manifesto of 2007 we also outlined our commitment to an East/West Road for Leominster, to be paid for by Developer contributions. We secured over 1.25 million pounds from Barons Cross Planning application for improvements to Bargates and the community infrastructure.

I will work with the Parish Council to draw up priorities for our local community to receive benefits from 106 agreements in the parish.

The Council recognises the importance of improving the status of Hereford City and the positive influence that has on the rest of the County. We are committed to redeveloping 100 acres north of the City centre alongside Edgar Street. This can provide an additional 1,200 homes, new university or higher educational facilities, and added retail on the existing cattle market site.

Over 70% of the County's retail spend is pent outside the County and we need to provide the sites for Waitrose, a major department store, multi plex cinema, improved parking as near to the City centre as possible. As Kathy Chadd said: if the ESG retail section had been built then Chadds would not have closed. The best way to support the existing City centre is to increase the number of customers to Hereford, linking independent stores with household names.

Pembridge Issues

The problems of traffic through the village continue to be a concern to residents. I have worked with the Parish Council on trying to secure the installation of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) which flashes at motorists when they exceed the speed limit. The latest data taken from traffic travelling Eastbound, entering the village from the West, (Westend Cottage), shows evidence that some vehicles travelled at speeds in excess of 35mph, therefore a SID can be deployed at this site. The data taken from traffic travelling Wesbound, entering the village from the East, (Townsend Farm), does not show any evidence of vehicles travelling at speeds in excess of 35 mph. When there is evidence that there is not a speeding issue a SID will not be deployed.

During the year we saw the closure of our village Post Office. I thank all those residents who wrote in support of a retained presence inside the Shop. I have worked with Herefordshire Council and Amenity Trust to identify the siting of the Mobile Post Office and hope that it will be a valuable asset to our community.

I have regularly reported to the Parish Council and updated them on issues including our Primary school and local Secondary school. Both schools are performing well with the new additions to Pembridge School opened this year. I have dealt wit many planning, drainage, highway and social care issues during the last 12 months.

This Autumn will see the introduction of a new waste collection contract. This will involve all households receiving a Wheelie Bin for recycling. You will still receive a weekly black bag collection, but unless you lack mobility or your home cannot deal with a bin, the purple and clear bags will end.

Many thanks to all the members of the Parish Council and to the Chairman and the Clerk for their personal support throughout the year.

Roger Phillips
 01544 340269/ 01432 260046
 Email: rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

**The Next Annual Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2010
 (Unless a General Election is called)**

List of New Pembridge Parish Councillors at May 2009 onwards	Please check the notice board for details of meetings. Tel. Nos.
Cllr. G. Evans - CHAIRMAN	01544 388638
Cllr. K. Myers - VICE CHAIRMAN	01544 388767
Cllr. D. Owens	01544 388422
Cllr. R. Pierce	01544 388682
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith	01544 388085
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin	01544 388414
Cllr. J. Purslow	01544 388060
Cllr. B. Morgan	N/A
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd	01544 340340
Cllr. A. Stokes	01544 387924
Cllr. P. Thomas	01544 388457
Cllr. K. Duggan	01544 388833
Cllr. R. Phillips - WARD COUNCILLOR	01544 340269

ANNUAL RETURN - YEAR ENDING 31.3.2009

	31.3.2008 £	31.3.2009 £	
1. Balances brought forward	20,562	23,934	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the councils financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. Annual Precept	18,000	19,000	Total amount of precept income received in the year.
3. Total other Receipts	9,889	4,167	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook minus the precept.
4. Staff Costs	3,690	4,948	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all council employees. Including salaries and wages, PAYE & NI (employees & employers) pension contributions related expenses.
5. Loan Interest/ Capital Repayments	NIL	NIL	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Council's borrowings (if any).
6. Total other Payments	20,827	14,747	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash book minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. Balances Carried Forward	23,934	27,406	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year (must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)).
8. Total Cash & Investments	23,934	27,406	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held as at 31 st - to agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total Fixed Assets & Long Term Assets	47,127	48,603	The recorded current book value at 31 st March of all fixed assets owned by the Council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties.
10. Total Borrowings	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 st March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).