

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN MEETING OF PEMBRIDGE PARISH 2010**

Held Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 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. K. Duggan		Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. K. Myers		Cllr. P. Rogers
Cllr. D. Owens		Mr. C. Buchanan – Parish Warden
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd		Mr. J. Higginson – CAP Chairman
		Ms. K. Finney – School Headteacher
		Mr. G. Whiting – Editor Parish Magazine

**+ 2 members of the public**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr. P. Thomas.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting & Matters arising from them – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Were read and approved.

### **3. Parishioners Question Time**

No questions were asked.

### **4. Parish Council Chairman's Report – Cllr. Garfield Evans**

This year the Council has held ten ordinary meetings and two special meetings. Some councillors have also attended sub-committee meetings and represented Pembridge on outside bodies including the "Shobdon Noise Abatement Group". It is essential for Councillors to broaden their knowledge and a variety of training courses have been attended.

The activities of the Council place 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.

In the year to the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010 the Council set a precept of £18,000. More information on the income and expenditure figures will appear on the Council website once the external audit has been completed. For the year to the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011, the Council has held the precept at £18,000 and more detail can be found on the website. The 2011 precept figure is once again lower than the anticipated spending for the year and any deficit will be met by reducing the reserves held.

I am pleased to confirm that 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. Anyone can follow the work of the Parish Council by visiting the website at [www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk) where the minutes of meetings are posted on the site for all to see. This year has seen the start of the Lengthsman scheme under which responsibility for maintenance along the minor roads of the Parish falls upon the Parish Council. Funding is received from Herefordshire Council and an administrator has been appointed. The administrator works alongside three parish councillors and a detailed survey has enabled the compilation of a regular maintenance plan, which is being implemented and should reduce problems on minor roads.

This year has seen the completion of the village green project, which opened in July 2009. We are grateful to the Kingspan Trust who provided the bulk of the funding for the project and also to the numerous volunteers who assisted in completing the project under budget and on time – something almost unheard of in local government! The site has attracted numerous visitors and been praised by many.

This year has also seen Herefordshire Council's replacement of the street lighting along the side of the A44. The Parish Council were consulted on the design of the luminaires but had very little input on their location. We did request additional lighting at the East end of the village, in Bridge Street and at the entrance to the school, all of which was needed for the improved safety of the public. These works were completed within the budget available to Herefordshire Council. We subsequently received requests for additional lighting to be installed in Bearwood Lane and this was accommodated within the scheme although not wholly covered by the Herefordshire Council budget. The balance of the cost will have to be met by the Parish Council but this will be funded from reserves and will not result in any extra costs to parishioners.

The Parish Council is pleased to continue its support of Pembridge School and in doing so has secured the installation of a "Speed Indicator Device" at the western entrance to the village. Prior to installation of the SID, a survey indicated that more than 50% of the traffic entering Pembridge was exceeding the speed limit. The SID is now erected every third month and the results to date indicate that a reduction in speeding is being achieved.

The Parish Council is dealing with a number of ongoing matters. A request from the Arrowvale Environment Group for the provision of allotments has been widely discussed and researched, with the Group currently attempting to identify potential sites for consideration.

The Parish Plan was produced in 2002 and a review and update is in progress and further consultation with Parishioners is planned for the near future. My thanks go to those Councillors who have been involved in this painstaking project. The update of the Parish Plan can be linked to the Herefordshire Council's "Shaping our place 2026" initiative which seeks to identify local service centres upon which development will be concentrated over the coming years. The Parish Council feels that it is important for the retention of local services, transport and development that Pembridge should not be overlooked.

Every year has its disappointments and this year, it has to be the lack of progress on provision of affordable housing for Pembridge. We have been in regular communication with Marches Housing Association and regrettably, we have recently been advised that Marches have been unable to reach agreement over the purchase of a site, which may throw the whole development into doubt.

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 continues 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 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 a notice and agenda are always posted on the Parish Council notice board at least three days before each meeting. Members of the Parish are more than welcome to attend and

while they may not take part in any debate, there is always a session for Parishioners to comment or ask questions.

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

Owing to the prolonged cold winter, fortunately the crime rate in the parish remains low. There were a few incidents which were reported in the 'West Mercia Polic Bulletin' – that of the theft of diesel and heating oil.

The 'Smart Water' sign placed in the Broxwood/Hardwick/Dilwyn Crossroads has had its pole stolen/removed. We purchased this from our funds and would like to replace it as soon as possible as the sign is a positive deterrent against crime.

The Speed Indicator from the Kington direction on the A44 (which has recently been taken down) was proving to be a deterrent to vehicles speeding through the village – I have personally witnessed them slowing down.

I have requested, through Garfield Evans in February, that a salt/grit container be placed by the entrance to Manley Lane due to ice forming onto the main road (A44) which is very dangerous.

We still have our quarterly 'Neighbourhood Watch' meetings to discuss incidents from the West Mercia police weekly bulletins and any other business which pertains to the parish. The next meeting is on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 at 7.30 pm in The New Inn, and anyone is welcome to attend.

Rev. Stanley Parrett who was the previous Parish Warden has sadly just passed away, and his funeral service was today (Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010) at St. Mary's Church.

If you wish to find out the crime rates in your area, log on to : [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

The non-emergency telephone number for West Mercia Police is:- 0300 333 3000

**6. Pembridge School Report – Headmistress – Miss Finney**

This academic year has been one of significant change and development at Pembridge CE Primary School, during which the school continues to thrive. There are currently 88 children on role. There has been an unusual situation this year with 9 children leaving to join Wigmore Primary School as parents perceive this to be the best way of securing a place at Wigmore High School. We do however have a very healthy number of 15 children set to join Reception year in September 2010.

At Christmas we said a fond farewell to Headteacher Andrew Teale after 6 very successful years at Pembridge. Miss Kerri Finney the Deputy Head, acted as Headteacher until her appointment was made permanent after the interview process in March. Mrs Laurie Williams, a newly qualified teacher, was appointed to replace Miss Finney as class teacher in Reception/Year One.

Phase 2 of the building work is almost complete. This has seen the remodelling of the Victorian School hall to make a new classroom, conference area and library facility. The two infant classrooms have been remodelled and now have their own toilet block. Both classrooms also have canopies outside which allow outdoor learning to take place all year round. The refurbishment has provide space for an art and design room and a small group room. Two of the classrooms have also had brand new furniture throughout. These developments have already made a significant impact on the children's learning. The third and final phase of the project is currently at the tendering stage. This will be characterised by a corridor linking the Victorian building with the modern school building. It will also allow for the school kitchen to be fully equipped to allow the children to use the space for food technology lessons. It is hoped that a spiritual garden, reflecting the Christian ethos of the school, will be created in the

courtyard that will be formed outside the two buildings.

The outdoor environment is also undergoing a major enhancement project. The school Eco Committee led by Miss Whistance and dedicated parent Mrs. Catherine Janson, successfully bid to Kingspan for some money to reinstate the school pond. This has been dug out ready to be lined and fenced, before a planting scheme is introduced. The Kitchen garden continue to be a huge success and Mrs. Kathy Thompson, our parent volunteer who tends the garden along with the gardening club, is entering the garden in the Heart of England in Bloom Competition.

15 new laptops have been introduced on a lease system, which will greatly enhance the way the children can use ICT to support their learning. Our wireless network is also being updated to allow the children internet and network access at any point in the school.

Pembridge has had some considerable sporting success this year with the netball team winning the Mitchell Hamer competition and the Tag Rugby team being narrowly beaten by Kingsland at the Luctonians festival. Both teams are going on to represent North Herefordshire at the West Mercia Tag Rugby festival in a couple of week's time.

Pembridge is about to embark upon its latest exciting development by taking part in a British Council project called Connecting Classrooms. This begins with Miss Finney joining 9 other Herefordshire Headteachers to take part in an 8 day visit to China later this month.

Miss Finney will spend a week in Kaifeng, Henan Province making friends with our partner school.

This will lead to a joint curriculum project between the schools and hopefully a return visit from the Chinese staff next year. It is hoped, amongst other ideas, to run a Chinese language and culture after school club to raise children's awareness of what it means to be a global citizen.

If you would like to come and see first hand the wonderful new facilities at Pembridge, meet the staff, see some of the children at work and look at the wonderful things they do, then please come along to our Open Evening on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June between 6pm -8.30 pm.

#### **7. Pembridge Amenity Trust – Cllr. G. Evans (Chairman)**

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 is honorary treasurer of the Trust and Mrs. Jen Myers who is honorary secretary.

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

#### **Market Hall**

As we approach the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration, a full inspection of the building and associated works has to be made under the terms of the grants that were received. It is expected that this will have a total cost of approximately £900, which falls within the budgeted figure. It is hoped that no structural or electrical problems will be identified by the inspection.

#### **Car Park & Toilets**

The lease of the car park and toilets from Herefordshire Council is scheduled to run for another 15 years, with an expiry date of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

At the request of the Parish Council, the landlords – Herefordshire Council – have undertaken an energy survey and have implemented measures that should serve to reduce the ongoing

running costs of the building. These works have been completed at no cost to the Trust and our thanks are due to Mr. Ken Myers who liaised with the landlords on our behalf.

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 the toilets. Our cleaner deserves to be congratulated on the high standard of his work.

### **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 has gathered around her an enthusiastic group of people. Anyone wishing to know more about development on the Meadow should contact Mrs. Mifflin.

### **Bell Tower**

During the last year, the bell tower has required some minor repairs to the roof. Concerns have been raised about health and safety issues related to winding the belfry clock. We are grateful to Mr. Ian Price who investigated this matter on behalf of the Trustees and who has implemented a degree of automation, which has made the process both swifter and safer. Our thanks also go to Mr. Klein, who undertakes the regular task of winding the clock.

### **8. Parish Footpath Officer's Report – Cllr. Ken Myers**

17 complaints were received by Herefordshire Council's North Herefordshire Footpath Warden but due to changes in staff and reorganisation the outcome of these complaints is not available for this report. The Parish Footpath Officer, who had not received notice of these complaints until a few days ago, will follow up these complaints on behalf of the Warden and advise whether any remedial action is still required.

Any parishioner who wishes to know what complaints had been lodged should enquire of the Parish Footpath Officer.

### **9. Parish Plan Review Report – Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd**

The Sub-Committee has finished its re-appraisal of the 2002 Parish Plan; update adjustments have been made and presented to the Parish Council.

Progress was halted for a few months while thought and discussion was given to the implications of 'Shaping our Place' following the public meetings in Shobdon and Pembridge.

Various suggestions have been put forward by some council members as to how to proceed. Following this and in accordance with ideas forwarded by Herefordshire Council a chart showing a list of achievements and work to be done, based on the original Guidelines and Steps for Action has been circulated to councillors. This has now been agreed upon and typed up ready for copying.

The list of achievement is considerable, however, some issues have not been addressed and it may not now be necessary to do so, and some are "work in progress".

It is the intention to circulate copies of the chart at the meeting in May and a date for an Open Meeting arrange for parishioners' comments, in order to help formulate a new Action Plan.

When the new Action Plan is agreed, it is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to obtain a grant under the Herefordshire Pride Grant Scheme to have the revised Parish Plan re-printed, to be available to parishioners either as printed copies or on discs. It would also be available on the website.

**10. Parish Council Website Report – Cllr. Bob Pierce**

Since March 2008, the Parish Council website has been using the top level domain of “gov.uk” indicating a government organisation. This imposes a few restrictions, such as not promoting commercial interests, but otherwise the site may contain anything of relevance to the activities of the Parish Council and of value to the Parish in general.

The site currently provides access to council Minutes going back to January 2007, plus details of how the precept is allocated. It also shows the Pembridge surgery opening times and emergency contact details; times for the mobile Post Office service; and a link to the local bus timetables on the Herefordshire Council website. The CAP, W.I. and Pembridge Show groups have their own pages and you can view the Pembridge Parish News going back to the January 2007 edition. Suggestions for other information which might be added are welcome.

The site also provides the means for sending messages to the Parish Council, the Parish Hall Committee, the CAP group and the webmaster.

Since the last report 12 messages (8 last year) have been sent to the council via the website and, unlike last year, most were from parishioners.

The site is not heavily used. Over the past year the server logs show that the average number of visits was around 350 each month. However, over 88% of these visits originated from US commercial domains, from Russia, or were unidentifiable. Most of these will have been automated trawls by robot software trying to find email addresses for spam use rather than visits by a human. The number of visits originating from the UK is around 75 per month and a good proportion of these are likely to be robots. So the number of genuine visits is probably no more than one or two per day.

**11. Community Access Point (Established 2008) – Mr. J. Higginson**

In Pembridge submitted a bid in 2007 to Herefordshire in Touch (HIT) for money to set up a Community Access Point (CAP) in Pembridge. The CAP provides ICT knowledge and equipment to members of the Parish who may otherwise be unable to access any. The CAP offers broadband to access to the digital world, with a helping hand from volunteers. Individuals can access information about local events, national events and even global events all of which is done in a safe, warm and clean environment with volunteers offering guidance and support.

The CAP offers a meeting place for parish members to meet new and old friends and brings the community closer together.

The CAP has also benefited the local school. This equipment allows pupils (and teachers) a chance to develop creatively. Hardware and software has also been provided which includes typing tuition and maths and English support programmes. All of which boost children's development and creativity.

Although attendance gets low during the winter months when people would rather stay indoors in front of the fire and watch television rather than venture out into the dark cold night. During the summer numbers start to climb.

By asking people who attend what they wish to achieve from their CAP sessions we are able to work out the best process to achieve this, whether it's small group sessions or one-to-one.

Over the past year we have introduced people to ancestors using family tree sites, introduced people to the internet and help them set up wi-fi and laptop at their home. We have also helped people edit and Phtoshop their photos to send to competitions and family members across the world.

While other CAP's in the area have folded, we have managed to have a steady flow of people using the CAP and with a healthy bank account we are in a position to continue the CAO for the foreseeable future.

The CAP is always looking to expand and always looking for new volunteers and new faces, everybody's welcome and we can help with most needs.

**12. Village Green Report – Cllr. K. Myers**

The Village Green Management Team comprises: Doreen Furber, Tony Norman, Bob Pierce and myself charged with managing all aspects of the village green and conservation area. Grass cutting around the river bank and car park area as well as the mowing of the main grass area was carried out to programme.

A tree report was commissioned to determine the health of the trees on the green and assess those that presented a danger. The report was carried out by Bearwood Associates and the suggested work put in hand and supervised by Tony Norman.

The conservation area was completed and formally opened by the Rev. Nick Read in July. The tree planting has proved successful, the meadow area has been seeded and habitats provided for birds and animals.

A continuing programme of maintenance has been agreed for the coming year.

Reports show that the area is well visited and receives many favourable comments.

**13. Pembridge Charities (Reg. No. 216294) Report – Cllr. D. Owens**

Registered Address and Contact Details:

Jubilee Cottage, Upper Hardwick, Pembridge, Leominster, Herefordshire. HR6 9HE.

Telephone: 01544 320115 E Mail [pembridge.charities@hotmail.com](mailto:pembridge.charities@hotmail.com)

**Trustees**

Mrs. A.M. Reid  
Mrs. B. Norman  
Mrs. L. Jones  
Rev'd J. Read  
Mrs. C. Price

Mr. D.T. Owens (Chairma)  
Dr. D. Griffith  
Mr. R. Smith  
Mr. R.S. Gwilliam (Deputy Chairman)

**Clerk**

Mr. M.J. Coleburn, Jubilee Cottage, Pembridge, Herefordshire. HR6 9HE

**Almshouses**

We have completed painting and decorating all the exteriors.

**Trafford Cottages 3 x 2 bedroom Dwellings & 3 x single bedroom Dwellings**

All 2 bedroomed dwellings occupied by almspeople.

One single bedroom dwelling occupied by an almsperson.

The remaining 2 single bedroom dwellings occupied by non almspeople.

**Duppa Cottages 4 x single bedroom Dwellings**

Three dwellings occupied by almspeople throughout the year.

One dwelling occupied to mid June then vacant for the remainder of the year.

**Maintenance Charges** (Per Dwelling)

Almspeople : Single Bedroom £76.00 per 4 weeks Two Bedroom £124.00 per 4 weeks.

Non Almspeople : Single Bedroom £200.00 p.c.m. Two Bedroom £350.00 p.c.m.

**Charity Land**

During the Autumn the Trustees instigated the process of registering the land and almshouses belonging to the Charities, on the Land Register to safeguard it for the future.

Report prepared by Michael Coleburn (Clerk to the Pembridge United Charities Trustees)

**14. Parish Magazine Report – Mr. Glyn Whiting (Editor)**

The Pembridge News continues to be enjoyed by Parishioners and the format is well received. The advertising page works well and helps to offset the cost of printing.

This year I have been particularly pleased that deadlines have more or less been kept as far as receiving copy is concerned, and the distribution along side the Church magazine works well. There are always additional copies at the village shop for those who do not get a delivery. Printing costs are stable and any issues that I print in 2010 will be at the same cost as last year. We are changing the issue date from the next issue and it will be bi-monthly from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note this for those who submit articles and I would ask the Clerk to notify those who submit on a regular basis.

I shall continue to edit for the foreseeable future and look forward to your contributions. Any suggestions for improvements will be welcome and anyone with interesting photos should email them to me. I would like to have pictures other than the ones I take !

I would like to thank Alan Stokes for his help with collating the copies, Bob Pierce for putting up with internet copies for the website (usually late) and to Heather for handling contributions and advertising. As they say, every little helps. And finally, to those of you who have taken the trouble to send in items for publication. That's what makes the news and gives the variety.

**Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. Roger Phillips**

- 15.** We are living in changing times with huge challenges facing our country. The national debt has risen to a level difficult for us to comprehend. The true impact on us as individuals and the services we use have yet to be honestly and clearly outlined by national politicians.

During the year unemployment levels in the county doubled to 3,000. As a local authority we committed ourselves to paying all undisputed invoices within 14 days to support local businesses and put all our available contracts on a special website for local firms to bid for. As an administration we ensured the building of the Rotherwas Access Road in 2008 to support the 2,000 existing jobs and support future developments. Many local companies were able to take advantage of the new infrastructure and win new contracts.

The County remains a favourable location for new enterprises within the region and improving access and capacity of Broadband to create even more business opportunities is a priority for us. A new scheme based on Shropshire and Herefordshire border which I have supported should help improve capacity in the parish.



The Council are committed to the development of the Leominster Enterprise Park and have accessed considerable external funding from Community, Redundant Buildings, Rural Enterprise and Shopfronts grants.

We supported a major lottery bid by handing over Grange Court in Leominster to the Community.

The County has been touched by the war in Afghanistan with local casualties and we welcomed the return of one of our local regiments to parade through Hereford in July. The murder of 17 year old Darren Loader in Hereford potentially could have created a serious problem of community cohesion. With the public services working together with the community this was avoided. While the last twelve months have not been easy our strong sense of community and pride in our County has helped us through difficult times.

At the beginning of a new decade it is fitting that we are consulting on the future of Herefordshire. How we want the County to develop up to 2026?

Over the next twelve months important decisions need to be made that will affect us in terms of jobs, prosperity, homes and transport. The '**Shaping Your Place**' consultation during the first three months of this year was about deciding where houses, businesses and roads should be built in Herefordshire. We wanted the community's views on affordable homes and the route of a relief road for Hereford and Leominster. The Council are committed to the Growth Agenda for our City and County as being the best way to secure **better paid jobs** (current average wage is £389 weekly), **more affordable housing** (average house prices are just below £200,000 with nearly 5,000 people on the waiting list) and the **improved infrastructure** required. We held a public meeting in February in Shobdon and another at the School in March, where, while supportive of more housing, the Parish Council and community were concerned about the services infrastructure for the village.

Part of this plan is the redevelopment of 100 acres over 20 years adjoining the City centre, known as the Edgar Street Grid. **The relocation of the Livestock Market** has begun off the Roman Road and opens up the opportunity for a **major retail store, multiplex cinema and improved retail outlets**, to complement, and to be linked to the existing shopping in the City. It will also open up land for over 800 homes.

If we do not encourage more people to access, live and shop in Hereford again, our economy and public services will decline. Work on the upgrading of Widemarsh Street has begun and designs for the downgrading of Newmarket Street are out for consultation, and are designed to ensure connectivity between the City Centre and the Old Livestock Market area. The alternative proposed by others is to build a large Tesco superstore on the livestock market site. This would not bring more shoppers to Hereford.

During 2009 the closer **partnership working between Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire** has meant we have made efficiencies and improved our services particularly to some of the most vulnerable children and adults. Today we achieve more assessments within seven days, have over 4,200 older people as clients, with over 700 receiving Telecare.

This year we will prepare to combine the administration services of the Council, PCT and Hospital to make over **5 million pounds worth of savings** and protect the functional and financial viability of OUR County Hospital. We have worked to support the better provision of Cancer Care at the hospital and the development of better Stroke services.

Over £800,000 was taken out of administration costs in Highways as we established a refreshed contract with Amey. November saw the introduction of our new **Green Wheelie bins for recycling** collection which is now collecting 400 tonnes per week, compared to 90 tonnes before, thus reducing our tonnage to landfill. We have also retained the weekly black bag collection within the new contract. One of the frustrations of the County is the one million pounds we spend on picking up litter. There must be a better debate with communities as to

how we can improve the situation.

The Council will continue to reduce the number of employees across its departments with a loss of over 100 posts in support services alone. The **4 million pound purchase of the Plough Lane** properties and car parks will be the centre of future administration of Herefordshire Public Services, offering improved value for money rather than operating out of numerous expensive buildings, which will be sold off. Those political groups and individuals who oppose our Plough Lane scheme will need to show their business plan and how they will provide valued services with a reduced budget. To date they have no alternatives and that means slashing services. In Autumn we consulted on the conclusions of the Schools Task Force and a policy of supporting local school clusters working together to share resources and retain premises. Our education results are mixed, and closer and collaborative working will be essential to sustain educational improvement and the protection of valued facilities.

Our schools still remain some of the poorest funded in England due to Government criteria; working with similar councils we are lobbying for a better deal including the recognition of the amount of school age children per hectare.

Both our local Primary and High School perform well. The past twelve months have seen new heads at Lady Hawkins (Gary House) and at Pembridge (Kerry Finney). It is important that our local children support these schools to ensure their educational and financial viability.

The recent **severe winter weather**, the worse for 30 years, has left considerable damage to the road system in the country. Locally we estimate over 5 million pounds worth in Herefordshire. January 2010 nearly 3,500 potholes were reported to the council compared 1,200 in January 2009 and 1,100 in January 2008. Our contractors are currently filling 600 potholes per week. **Please report any potholes to the council's street care line on tel: 01432 261800 or : [streets@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:streets@herefordshire.gov.uk)**

### **Budget 2010/11**

The Council set a budget for the next financial year pulling out over **4 million pounds savings**. We are budgeting for an **additional 1.2 million pounds in Adult Social Care and one million extra in Children's Services** particularly in care aspects. We will need to replace reserves borrowed from last year and replace the winter maintenance and social care reserves by £500,000 each. Following the damage this winter we have **increased Highway expenditure by 10%** to just over 18 million pounds.

The Council set the lowest level of increase in Council Tax since Herefordshire was formed at 2.5%. This budget was not supported by the opposition groups and they offered no alternative.

Herefordshire Formula grant from Government is £317 per head of population  
Which is 17% below unitary average for England of £378

Herefordshire School grant is £4,002 per pupil : 9% or £396 below average of £4,398 in England

After the World Cup in South Africa in August the media will be descending on Hereford as we host the **World Blind Football Championships at the Royal National College**. It will be a positive opportunity to show off and celebrate all our County and what its people have to offer.

The introduction of the Speed Indicator Device has proved popular and after considerable consultation a new street lighting project has been undertaken through the village. The supply of an affordable housing project has been frustrating, particularly given the support that the Parish Council has given.

Within the Parish this year I have regularly attended Parish Council meetings and visited many other functions. I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman, Clerk and Members of the Parish Council for your continued support to me, and your positive attitude to the local community.

It is a great pleasure and honour to be your representative on the local authority and will continue to do all I can for the residents of this parish.

Roger Phillips

01544 340269/ 01432 260046

Email: [rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**16. Parishioners Additional Question Time**

A comment was made that the parish Affordable Housing project will probably not now go forward as negotiations with the landowner over provision of land had ceased.

**17. Next Meeting – May 2011 – Date and Venue to be confirmed**