

MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN MEETING OF PEMBRIDGE PARISH 2012

Held Wednesday 16th May, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. G. Evans Chairman
Cllr. A. Pace

Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans
Cllr. K. Myers (Resigned)
Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill

Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. Mrs. J. Miffin

Cllr. D. Owens
Cllr. R. Pierce (Resigned).
Cllr. P. Rogers
Cllr. P. Thomas

Mr. B. Bowen
Mrs. S. Bowen
Ms. L. Jones
Mrs. B. Petrie
Mr. J. Petrie

Ms. K. Finney – School Headteacher
Mr. G. Whiting – Editor Parish Magazine
Ms. M. Fothergill
Mrs. M. Albright
Mrs. P. Stokes

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr. K. Duggan, Mr. C. Buchan – Parish Warden, Cllr. R. Phillips

2. Minutes of the last meeting & Matters arising from them – 5th May 2011

Were approved. No matters arising.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report 2011/12 – Cllr. G. Evans

This year the Council has again held ten ordinary meetings and a number of special meetings. Some councillors have also attended sub-committee meetings and have represented Pembridge on outside bodies. 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. Members of the Parish are more than welcome to attend and while they may not take part in any debate, there is always session for Parishioners to comment or ask questions.

Last May saw a round of Parish Council elections and with Pembridge being the largest rural parish in Herefordshire there were thirteen seats available. Thus, it was disappointing that only nine people sought nomination. However, by the June meeting a further five people had put their names forward, four of whom became co-opted members. Since that time, one member has resigned and a further councillor has been co-opted. Unfortunately, I have recently accepted resignation from a further member of the Council so that a vacancy is soon to be advertised.

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 31st March, 2012 the Council held the set a precept of £18,000 and details of the income and expenditure figures will appear on the Council website once the external audit has been completed. For the year to the 31st March, 2013, the Council has yet again held the precept at £18,000 and more detail can be found on the website. The 2013 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.

This year there have been developments in a number of areas, some of which will be reported on later. In September, the Pembridge Allotments Association made a request for financial assistance to cover the cost of fencing and the provision of a water supply. The Parish Council was pleased to be able to assist and it is heartening to see the popularity of the allotments. It was also around September that the Parish Council received a letter from two people who were considering the purchase of the local shop. The Parish Council gave enthusiastic backing to the ideas that were put forward and the rest, I am delighted to say, is history.

This year sees the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebration and the Parish Council is pleased to have been able to offer financial support to planned celebrations within Pembridge. Our thanks go to Councillor Julie Mifflin, who is the driving force behind the local celebrations.

Last year I reported on the update of the Parish plan. Following on from this a steering group was set up to ensure that the action points made in the plan receive adequate follow up. This has become increasingly important with passing of the Localism Bill, which brings about the idea of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is likely to evolve from the revised Parish Plan. A report from the steering group will follow.

We have continued to develop closer ties with the local police, who regularly attend and report to the Parish Council and who now hold monthly "surgeries" in the village. Although originally located at the market hall, these now take place in the shop. We have continued to support to the Good Neighbourhood Scheme and Pembridge in Bloom (or Pride in Pembridge as it has been rebranded). The Parish Council is pleased to continue its support of Pembridge School and to pursue a policy of making the streets a safer place for all of the residents. We have continued with the regular installation of a "Speed Indicator Device" at the western entrance to the village and have also given our approval to regular speed enforcement by the Safer Road Partnership.

Unfortunately, not everything has worked out as we had hoped. Last year I reported on positive feedback from Marches Housing Association on the provision of affordable housing. I also expressed the hope that this was not another false dawn for a project that has been in the pipeline for a number of years. Unfortunately, I now have to report that no further progress has been made but can assure everyone that your Council is still actively promoting affordable housing for Pembridge and has consulted with alternative providers but with no success to date.

The future promises no reduction in the workload of the Parish Council and this seems an appropriate time to remind everyone that you can follow the work of your Parish Council by visiting the website at www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk where the minutes of meetings are posted on the site for all to see. A visit to the site will also enable Parishioners to sign up to our email service whereby the agenda for all upcoming meetings will automatically be sent to you.

Finally, a further round of thanks. 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. Thanks 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. Thanks also to Glyn Whiting, who until recently, has been our volunteer editor of Pembridge Parish News. Glyn has recently decided that he can no longer continue in this post and we are grateful that Bob Pierce has offered to take over the role. On the subject of the press, might I also remind people that since the start of this year, the local correspondent for the Hereford Times has been Councillor Philip Rogers; so please get anything that you want publicised to him.

My personal thanks go to the vice-chairman, Ken Myers, to Bob Pierce for administering the PC website and to all of my fellow Councillors who put in untold hours of work for no reward. The amount of time that they give and their dedication to the local community almost always goes unnoticed by those they serve.

4. Parish Matters to be raised by Pembridge Electors

A question was asked as to whether the residents of the newly built property that are currently using an accessway from the car park, will always be able to do so?

It was explained that initially an 8 month licence to do so was given whilst the property was being built, and that this licence expires on 21st June, and thereafter no accessway through that route will be permitted. It was pointed out the Parish Council objected to the planning application for this property because of the inadequate and dangerous existing accessway into and out of the site.

In addition, any change to the licence would have to be approved by other people who have rights of access across the car park.

A written concern from a resident was next raised. This was that the kerb edging stones throughout the village are crumbling and becoming dangerous. Also the village house frontages are unkempt, unswept and generally very dirty and gritty, and becoming a danger to walk along. It was hoped that an article in the next parish magazine, prior to the village judging inspection for the 'In Bloom' competition, might stir residents into cleaning up.

5. Police Report – PC Joanne Ellis

The number of crimes dealt with between 16.5.2011 and 16.5.2012 has been 13 :-
4 vehicle crimes, 4 burglaries, 3 thefts, and 2 incidents of criminal damage.

The PACT surgeries continue to be held on a monthly basis, and the venue is now the Shop, on the third Thursday of each month.

Updates on police matters are sent out via the Community Messaging Services and weekly news alert to Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators, and a monthly report for the whole parish.

A special thank you was given to the Neighbourhood Watch Team for their commitments and time and information.

The local Police team comprises 5 members for the town and rural areas.
West Mercia Police are tackling rural crime under operation 'Ignite'.

Speed Enforcement is taking place along the A44 road now. Out of 27 parishes that PC Ellis is responsible for, 27 of those stated that speeding traffic is their top priority. Motorcyclists are also being targeted.

PC Ellis said that she has brought along a lot of interesting literature to give out after the meeting to anyone who would like it. She agreed to leave some also in the Steppes Shop.

6. Pembridge School Headteacher's Report – Miss K. Finney

Pembridge CE School Report for the Parish 2011-2012

I am very pleased to report that the school has had another busy and successful year since the last Parish Open Meeting.

The number of pupils on roll has now increased to 108 children, our highest number for a very long time. In July we will lose our biggest year group, of 21 children, who are moving on to various local high schools, the majority will transfer to Lady Hawkins'. Numbers for this September however look healthy and so we should maintain our roll at 100 + pupils.

Academic standards remain high and we are proud that for the second consecutive year 100% of the children in Year 6 achieved at least the national average of Level 4 in English and Maths. Results across the school have been good and we are very pleased that the Local Authority now considers us a category one school, one of the best in the county.

The school again entered the Heart of England in Bloom awards and was awarded a Silver Gilt award for the school grounds for the second consecutive year. Mrs Catherine Janson, a parent, coordinated the project and continues to work very hard with the children on maintaining the pond area as well as tending the thriving school kitchen garden. This year has seen the addition of a wormery and a greenhouse which has been really useful in helping to get a head start with planting the garden. This year has also seen the introduction of a Forest School area on the school field; Miss Whistance coordinates this exciting addition to our curriculum. The children love taking part in the Forest School sessions where the learning all takes place outdoors and is very practical. They have made dens, named and labelled trees and toasted marshmallows over an open fire pit.

The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the year; some highlights being the summer 2011 production of Cinderella Rockerfella, ice skating in Hereford, whole school topic on the Great Outdoors, whole school visit to take part in team, building activities at Oaker Wood, Tag Rugby festival, Mitchel Hamer football and netball competitions. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London 2012 Olympics, Red Ridge outdoor pursuit residential and taking our Y6 on an exciting day trip to London which will include a visit to a West End theatre to see a show.

This year the school has been involved in many community events such as providing entries for Pembridge Show, singing in the Arrowvale Concert and Country and Maypole dancing as part of Shobdon Food Festival, making a guy for the village bonfire, taking part in the annual "switch on" of the Pembridge Christmas lights, singing carols at Lynhales Nursing Home, playing instruments and songs to entertain the residents at West Eaton House Leominster and many more. We have opened up the school to host community groups in our newly refurbished building. These include the PCC, Sunday School and Arrowvale Lentern group.

The school continues to have a very active PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association) who do an excellent job of fundraising to help support the work of the school. Most recently they gave each pupil a beautiful potted Primula for the children to take home to give their mums for Mothering Sunday and have run a hugely popular Film Club for the children. Their next project is to help to fund an outdoor shelter and purchase of an I Pad for each key stage.

The school has very good links with our local federation of schools which consists of Lady Hawkins High School, Kington, Almley and Eardisley primary schools. We are looking at new ways of working together and are currently planning a Values Conference to be jointly organised and hosted at LHS in the Autumn Term. Pembridge is also a member of the Activate Network of schools, which is a group of 23 county schools, who come together for training and professional development events.

To find out more about us please visit our new website at www.pembridgeprimary.org.uk to keep up to date with developments at the school, you could also sign up to our new weekly newsletter whilst you are logged on.

Kind regards,

Kerri Finney
Head teacher

7. Village Hall Report – Cllr. K. Myers

The hall was well used during the year on a regular weekly basis by a number of groups, which contributed to an excess of income over expenditure. Unfortunately Ted Vaughan, who has for many years been organising two weekly whist drives, is retiring and the Hall Committee has

expressed their thanks for the donations he has made. There is every chance that the whist drives will continue.

A building and energy survey was carried out by Amey on behalf of Herefordshire Council which has resulted in the decision to increase the roof insulation and investigate the benefits and costs of a PV solar heating system. In addition, a new bunded oil storage tank is to be installed to comply with statutory safety requirements. Adequate reserves are available to fund these schemes.

8. Parish Warden Report – Mr. Chris Buchan (Sherriff)

May 2011 to May 2012

Again the crime rate in the parish remains relatively low due to a greater presence of the local Police and Community Support Officer throughout the year. The incidents that were reported were that of catalytic converters stolen from various vehicles in March 2012.

I am still awaiting my request for a grit/salt bin to be placed by the entrance to Manley Lane – due to ice forming onto the main road (A44) which is extremely dangerous; which has been mentioned to the Parish Council. I also noticed a general advertisement in the Pembridge Parish News (Apr/May 2012) for any requests for grit/salt bins from residents if they thought there was a need in the parish.

The Speed Indicator from the Kington direction on the A44 is still proving to be a deterrent to vehicles speeding through the village. We have also had a speed enforcement vehicle positioned at the same location at random intervals.

We still have our quarterly Neighbourhood Watch meetings (which I Chair), to discuss incidents from the West Mercia Police weekly bulletins and Emails (Hereford Community Messaging – Ringmaster), and any other business that pertains to the parish. The last one was held on Tuesday 24th April 2012 and the next one will be held on Tuesday 7th August 2012 at the New Inn.

PC Joanna Ellis and CSO Dick Alford continue to give us excellent support and give us updates on various incidents by attending the meetings. Some of the incidents we have spoken about are:-

1. Thefts of fuel/metal/heating oil
2. BT/Phone scams
3. Bogus charity callers
4. Simple steps to help keep your home safe and secure while you're away
5. Travellers Site (Supervised by Frank Lane)
6. Proposed wind turbine route to mid Wales
7. Doorstep crime
8. Smart Water security system
9. Kington Rural news alerts
10. Pembridge Parish News and Diamond Jubilee celebrations

We did our Halloween Duty Patrol on Monday 31st October 2011 by patrolling the village, walking around in pairs at hourly intervals – A quiet night !

My team consists of Alan Stokes, Ian Price, Pat Teale, Linda Hones, Chris and Ron Moor and John and Barnbara Petrie.

9. **Village Green Report – Cllr. Ken Myers**

Again the main green has required little maintenance other than the regular grass cutting and annual mow.

The Conservation Area is being tended by the management team, whose active members comprise Tony Norman, Bob Pierce, Adrian Lomax and myself.

It should be noted that the trees on the green and in the conservation area are inspected annually by the parish Tree Warden (Tony Norman) with particular regard for the safety of users of the areas.

10. **Pembridge Amenity Trust Report – Cllr. G. Evans**

The last year has been a quiet one 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.

Market Hall

As previously reported, an inspection of the building was carried out at the end of May 2010, which identified a few areas requiring attention. I am pleased to report that this work has now been completed.

The only remaining planned work relates to the cobbles installed to catch the rainwater run-off. These are set in traditional lime mortar, which is not a very durable material and within the next 5 years, they will have to be re-pointed.

Car Park & Toilets

The lease of the car park and toilets from Herefordshire Council is scheduled to run for another 13 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.

A request was received for the grant of a temporary access over the car park to facilitate building works. In association with our landlords, Herefordshire Council, a licence was granted for a period not exceeding 8 months. This licence expires on 31 June this year.

The operation of toilets and car park has been relatively trouble free.

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 the Meadow has been delegated to a group, currently chaired by Mrs Julie Mifflin, who has gathered around her an enthusiastic group of people. Anyone wishing to know more about developments on the Meadow should contact Mrs Mifflin.

Bell Tower

Other than some minor repairs, there is nothing to report. Our continued thanks go to Mr Klein, who undertakes the regular task of winding the clock.

Garfield Evans
Chairman of Trustees

11. Parish Footpath Officer's Report – Cllr. P. Rogers

During the year I have received some four complaints regarding over planting of paths and gates in disrepair. These have been addressed with the landowners who have agreed to clear footpaths where necessary. New gates have been installed on some paths and others have been ordered for delivery in the coming year. Amey has been urged to trim a lane near Marston and this is on their works list to be carried out again.

Complaints have been made directly to the County Rights of Way Officer by 'organisations' regarding some of our less used paths. These concerns have been addressed.

12. Pembridge Parish Magazine Editor's Report – Mr. Glyn Whiting

The magazine has had another year of being well received by the parish, although articles are still hard to get out of people. Our regular contributors always deliver interesting items and I thank them for that.

We have had one or two distribution hiccups over the year, with the church magazine going out at varying dates rather than the 1st of the month. Apart from that, the distribution works well.

I will be hanging up my editors hat after the next issue and handing over to Bob & Carrie Pierce. I think seven years is long enough and it's time for someone to bring some fresh ideas to the project.

13. Pembridge Almshouses & Charities Report – PC Representative: Cllr. D. Owens

Trustees:-

Mrs. B. Norman	Dr. D. Griffith
Mrs. C. Price	Mr. R.S. Gwilliam
Rev'd J. Read ***	Mr. G.J. Evans ###
Mr. D. Owens	Mr. R. Smith

*** Rev. J. Read moved away from Pembridge Parish during 2011

Mr. G.J. Evans was appointed trustee at the July trustees meeting to replace Mrs. Margaret Reid.

There was a presentation to Mrs. Reid of a village print, which took place at Pembridge Show.

The year started with 2 vacant houses, No.1 Duppa since the death of Mr. Davies in October 2010, and No.2 Trafford since Mrs. Phibben moved to sheltered accommodation in December 2010.

Water damaged ceilings in Nos. 2, 3 & 4 Duppa were repaired during January at a cost of £1,500.00 – 90% of the cost being met by the insurers.

During January, No.1 Duppa was let to Mr. Paul Price a non beneficiary of the trust, bringing the total number of houses occupied by non beneficiaries for the year to four.

During August, No.4 Duppa became vacant when Mr. Doxat decided that he didn't wish to occupy the property although he had paid the WMC charges since October 2010. The house was subsequently allocated to another applicant, Mr. B. Purnell.

A survey of No.2 Trafford revealed that remedial work was needed to the front bedroom and landing floor and stairs, plus provision of additional handrails.

The front soleplate of No. 3 Trafford was found to be suffering from rot and had to be replaced.

A large cherry tree at the rear of No.4 Trafford had to be felled because its roots were threatening damage to drains.

Despite additional expenditure, it was found unnecessary to increase WMC or Rent payments which remained at their 2010 levels throughout 2011.

At the year end, No.2 Trafford was the only unoccupied house.

14. Parish Plan Steering Group Report 2011-12 – Read by Cllr. A. Pace

Following the review of the Parish Plan submitted during the year the Parish Council set up a steering group (PPSG) comprising Cllr. Pierce, Pace, Rogers and Myers to establish a method for the continuous review of the parish plan to ensure its relevance to changing conditions.

The group recommended that sub-groups be formed to monitor and report on the headings in the review:

Housing/Planning, Environment, Leisure, Traffic, Business, tourism and farming, Welfare.

These sub-groups would consist of a member of the PPSG, who would report to the Parish Council on behalf of the sub-group, another councillor and initially up to four other members from the parish. The Parish Council accepted the PPSG's recommendations. Two sub-groups have been formed to date and are reported below.

Housing/Planning

It was agreed by the Parish Council that this heading would incorporate much of the work required for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and consequently this should be the initial focus of the sub-group. Nationally little has been established as to how such a plan should be put together but sub-group members are attending training sessions and keeping the Parish Council abreast of developments.

As there was need to establish this sub-group quickly all PPSG members agreed to take part and Mrs. Merry Albright has been co-opted, being the only parishioner to express an interest.

Welfare

The sub-group is in its formative stage with Mrs. Pat Stokes and Cllr. Stokes being the first members and Cllr. Myers being the PPSG representative. The recruitment of more members is in progress.

Unfortunately there was only one response from parishioners to a request in the parish newsletter for people to take part in the plan, consequently no other sub-groups have been formed to date.

15. Queen's Diamond Jubilee of Coronation 2012 – Parish Social – Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin

Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 4th June 2012 holiday.

This weekend begins with a scarecrow competition throughout the village and we hope that as many people as possible will enter, making the village look very festive. The theme is Royalty. The church are having a flower festival and exhibition during the weekend.

Saturday

The afternoon's events move to the Millennium Meadow. There will be a marquee with afternoon events including a bouncy castle and slide, a face painter, ice cream van, wellie wanging, and a decorated hat competition – the theme is 'A hat suitable for a royal occasion'.

I had hoped to have a childrens' fancy dress competition and some sports events, but so far I have been unable to find any help. I am still looking, and would appreciate all offers of help.

It would be nice if someone could organise a fun rounders or cricket match.

A wheelbarrow race is being organised – see Carol Jackson or Cliff for more details.

Teas and homemade cakes will be available all afternoon. The bar will also be open in the afternoon and evening.

The barbeque will commence at 6.30pm and the childrens disco at the same time. Around 8.30-9pm the live band 'Business as Usual' will commence and continue until the end of the evening.

Sunday

A folk group named 'Pyke Staff' will play under the Market Hall between 12 noon and 2pm. Roast pork baps will be on sale at the New Inn. Extra tables and chairs will be provided.

Following this there will be cream teas and an exhibition available at the church.

16. Parish Council Website Report – Cllr. R. Pierce

Site address: www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visits to the site by human beings continue to number no more than one or two per day. The majority of over 400 visits per day are by automated agents from search engines and by other software trying to find email addresses for spam use – most of these originate in the USA or Russia.

The site provides access to council minutes going back to January 2007, details of how the precept is allocated, and also includes the Pembridge Parish News going back to January 2007 edition. The site also gives 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 website.

On the site you can register to receive agendas by email in advance of each Council meeting and the number on the list is now eighteen. The site doesn't check or restrict who can sign up for agendas but so far we have had no foreign sounding names or email addresses.

The site is currently written in Adobe Flash. Unfortunately Steve Jobs spotted that if he banned Flash from Apple mobile devices he would be able to charge their users for applications that might otherwise have been free. As a result the site cannot be viewed properly on iPhones or iPads and, although this won't bother many people, my task for the coming year is to replace the site with an HTML5 version.

17. Lengthsman Scheme – Cllr. K. Myers

The majority of the Lengthsman work in the year was the annual maintenance of gulleys, grips and drainage ditches which was carried out in the autumn and early winter.

Additional tasks requested by the Parish Council and parishioners were carried out, resulting in virtually all the grant from Herefordshire Council being expended. However, the grant will be reduced in 2012/13 to £4,230 – which is meant to reflect the reduced level of work required following the initial refurbishment.

During the course of the year our Administrator Dan Wenczek stood down and was replaced by Carrie Pierce; the councillors responsible remain Alan Stokes and myself.

Good Neighbour Scheme – Mrs. P. Stokes

18. It is a pleasure to report on the successful first year's progress of the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme.

Since our launch on the 1st June 2011 we have to date **18** volunteers who have delivered over **120** hours of volunteer work on **50** jobs to **15** different people in the parish. We are also providing ongoing help and support for several people on a weekly basis.

We have had referrals from the British Red Cross, Herefordshire Carers Support and the Leominster and Kington social work teams.

Our scheme has been covered through the media on several occasions, via BBC radio Hereford and Worcester, The Hereford Times and Journal newspapers, and recently an article in Herefordshire Matters.

We held a very successful Coffee Morning event in February, which was also attended by the Community Police Officer and a representative from the Hereford & Worcester Fire Service, and it is hoped that we will organise further events in the future.

We were approached during the year by Lyonshall Parish Council and from Suckley Parish in Worcester to help them set up a Good Neighbour Scheme based on our format, and subsequently they have both launched similar schemes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for its ongoing support of the scheme and all the volunteers who have given their time and help so willingly in order that the Scheme will from strength to strength.

19. Pride in Pembridge Report – Cllr. A. Stokes

The Team was established in autumn 2011, its main objective is to maintain and enhance the appearance of the village on a regular basis.

This is to add to the huge amount of work that Cllr. Mrs. Miffin undertakes for the village :- Christmas trees, churchyard, organising the Pembridge Show and the hanging basket competition etc.etc. We thank her.

Initially we concentrated on litter picking, with many bags being collected (20 or more I think), and planting trees and flowers and bulbs in and around the village and the wider parish, as well as weeding and tidying up.

So far we are around 12 in number, and have focussed mainly on litter picking and bulb and tree planting. Thanks to Border Oak we have made a large planter in the car park, and the WI will plant this up shortly and look after it in the future. We have planted a number of ornamental trees at the village hall, and Heather was successful in her application to receive five oak trees for the parish from Herefordshire Council's contractors – Amey, under their 'Project 100' to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. Two of these have been planted at the village green, one on the millennium meadow, one in Luntley and one at Broxwood.

We have purchased some baskets to hang on the railings in front of the shop and gallery; thanks to Suzanne Evans for filling these.

We had some initial funding from the Pembridge Players (the drama group that was set up about 12 years ago) and grants from the Pembridge Hortifutlural Society and the Parish Council, and a gift of some oak planks to make a planter for the car park. Also the Womens Institute were successful in obtaining a grant.

At an early meeting the group decided to enter the RHS 'Britain in Bloom' scheme; we come under the Heart of England group, and have joined the Hereford and Wye Valley in Bloom organisation. This gives us an opportunity to meet other 'In Bloom' groups from across the county, and more importantly may lead to some further funding later in the year from Amey.

Our judging day is Tuesday 10th July. We are expecting two judges, and are currently deciding on the route that we wish to take them around the village. The scoring covers three areas: Horticultural Achievement (50%), Environmental Responsibility (25%), and Community Participation (25%).

We hope to improve on the scores that we got in 2010, and hopefully achieve the gold standard; but whatever award we get I do hope you will agree that Pembridge is a beautiful village, and we want to keep it this way.

20. **Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips**

Dear Residents,

The last twelve months have seen many challenges for Local Government as it responds to the Government's 28% reduction in funding over 2011/12 and 2012/13.

To date much of these savings have been found in staff reductions and service reorganisations, however the next twelve months will see the continued withdrawal of services and the introduction of higher charges in order to balance the books.

At all levels of Government I have worked during the last year to raise the concerns of the rural communities including lobbying Eric Pickles on his visit to Herefordshire. I send out monthly email updates to my ward contacts and attend Parish Council meetings and local events regularly. During the year we said farewell to Julie Read as our rector and look forward to Brenda Jacobs taking up her appointment in July. Last year saw the Duke of Gloucester attending Kington Show at Lyonshall and this year will see the reopening of Shobdon Church.

Can I thank all Parish Councillors for their support during the year and in particular the Chairmen and Clerks. It remains an honour to represent this part of the County and if at any time you think I can be of help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Budget

The Council took the Government Grant equivalent to 2.5% Council Tax in order to freeze Council Tax for a second year. There are 9.3 million pounds worth of savings in the new budget of £146 million following on from 10 million last year. Herefordshire level of grant is 13% below the English average. The biggest changes will come as in other authorities in social care. The 2011/12 Social Care Budget was significantly overspent. In future there will be more funding to promote more independent living by elderly at home and adults with learning difficulties. There is no doubt that some of these proposals will be difficult, particularly as they affect some individual care packages. The Capital Programme will be supporting 6 million pounds each for support of rural Broadband and a new Archives building. Currently the Council is rearranging its borrowing to lock in to the current advantageous rates of 4% over a 20/25 year period.

Full information can be seen :-

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=291&MId=3563&Ver=4>

Highways

All my Parish Councils operate a Lengthsman Scheme to support local drainage and road problems, paid for by grant from Herefordshire Council. In Autumn I arranged individual meetings between all my Parish Councils and Amey (Herefordshire Council's contractor) to discuss concerns and potential schemes for 2012/13 work programme.

Speeding remains a major issue throughout the ward, but this year saw a new 30 mph speed limit in Shobdon and this summer the Police have a Community Concern initiative with speed cameras along the A44. I am working with the local communities in Shobdon and Titley on further measures.

Although the winter was kinder to our roads than the previous year the recent rain has uncovered many potholes. If you need to report a pothole please either ring 01432 261800 or

email streets@herefordhire.gov.uk

Over the last ten years several severe accident blackspots on the main roads in my parishes have received attention. Sometimes this involved new road surfacing or markings, bollards or marker posts. Three of the most severe have seen significant reductions : A44 bends at Cotmore which saw 9 serious accidents in 5 years prior to works, have been reduced to 3. A44 Moseley Corner had 10 and since the improvements no serious accidents; and Monie Corner also on A44 outside Pembridge no accidents where previously there were 9.

Schools

Wigmore High School and Lady Hawkins(LHS) have both become Academy Schools have maintained their number of pupils and are performing very well. Our local Primary schools are also performing well. This year saw the retirement of Dorrie Cates at Ameley and the opening of their new classroom. Shobdon also had a new classroom and library.

I will be encouraging all our feeder primaries and High schools to work more closely together to ensure high standards of Education are maintained within each individual school.

School budget are totally separate from the Councils and are overseen by their own governing bodies. They can buy the services they need from anywhere although we hope they will buy their support services from Herefordshire Council to support the existence of an Education Dept in the County. The indicative grant per pupil is £4,723 which is 7% below national average. Primary School numbers in the County will increase in 2012/13 by 39 pupils while Secondary schools are predicted to fall by 156 pupils. Primary school numbers have fallen in the county by 2,185 from a high in 1998 and Secondary school numbers have fallen from high in 2005 of 10,511 to currently 9,635.

Planning

Parishes will have the opportunity to develop Neighbourhood Plans which will part of the legal process and be complimentary to the County Council's own Development Plan. I am lobbying for Pembridge, Shobdon and Lyonshall to be recognised as settlements for future growth. That growth should be carefully scaled, proportionate to local community requirements and environmental suitability. Determined more by the local community via the neighbourhood plan then instructed by the County Council's own plan the level of House Building will be lowest we have ever seen in our lives which I don't think everyone recognises. From 1996 till 2011 Pembridge Parish had 79 new houses, Shobdon over 100, Lyonshall 18, and the Titley Group 21 (Titley having 15).

Outside our three main villages building will still be restricted but I am working with colleagues on affordable housing, including proposals for single affordable dwellings.

I consider the development of our Neighbourhood Plans to be a top priority in the next twelve months.

Waste Collection

The majority of Households in my ward have a green wheelie bin and we have retained a weekly collection. The amount of materials recycled in 2011/12 was 31,000 tonnes(41%)

The Council has a joint contract with Worcestershire authorises and is hoping with Eric Pickles support to build a Waste to Energy plant at Hartlebury near Worcester and turn our black bags into electricity rather than landfill them.

Business

Our local businesses continue to meet the challenge of the recession and high fuel costs. Kingspan Insulation with 400 employees supplied insulation for roofing in both Handball and basketball Arenas for the Olympic Games. Lynhales with 73 residents remains and Burgoyne's Transport and Marquees are my next largest employers

Improved Broadband is a major priority for HC and a new project to roll out the service across the County will begin this Autumn.

HC have received a £1.5 million grant from the Governments Growth Fund to support small businesses and start-ups in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford to bring unused buildings back into productive economic use. The scheme will provide up to £ 50,000 to small businesses to transform redundant buildings with the aim to create over 300 direct jobs. This is similar to the previous successful scheme we used to run.

Police Matters

We are fortunate to live in a relatively low crime area and have the benefit of a local police team including 3 Community Support Officers (CSO) . Like all public services the West Mercia Police force is having to make economies and they have formed an alliance with Warwickshire to make £31 million savings by 2015. This could result in 700 job losses predominantly in civilian posts. **Soon** a " new look" service will be unveiled with changes and I am keeping an eye on the impact on our rural patch.

I value the role of the local CSOs and note that currently we have 26/27 across the County against a full complement of 36. I have met with the Chief Constable David Shaw and was reassured by the continued commitment to cross border arrangements between West Mercia and Dyfed-Powys forces.

Dial 101 to report less urgent crime or disorder and for general police enquires. 999 should still be used in an emergency where there is danger to life or risk of injury, a crime is in progress and the offender is still at the scene. For more information visit www.police.uk/101

Energy Costs

Can I recommend that you look at two of the government schemes to help households with their energy bills. The Energy Savings Trust on 0800512012 or their website and the Warm Front grant for vulnerable people and those on low incomes contactable on 0800 3166011. Both these offers will be removed by next winter and my guess is the replacements will not be as generous.

West Midlands Ambulance Service

I have met with the Commissioning Director of the service who was reporting on the performance levels. There are several targets but the main one I was concerned about was the response time for life threatening incidents of within 8 minutes. This is a problem in rural areas who's true response time is masked by our market towns and Hereford City. In the HR6 postcode area ambulances arrived within 8 minutes of 75% of all calls and in HR5postcode it was 66% . To address the obvious geographical challenge it is important that Ambulances have paramedics on board that can deliver the necessary drugs e.g deal with blood clots immediately and save someone life. The aim in Herefordshire is for 94% of all ambulance teams to include a paramedic and currently the Service claims to be meeting that target.

Our total population will rise from the 2011 position of 181,200 to 188,600 by 2020 of which the number of 18 to 24 year olds will go down from 12,000 in 2011 to 10,400 in 2020, 25 – 64 year olds decline from 92,900 to 91,800 while the number of over 65 year olds will rise from 41,100 to 52,200. I shall feed this information to our local Neighbourhood/Parish Plan groups.

A44 Turbine Movements

Residents living alongside the A44 and particularly in Pembridge will be pleased that we managed to change the minds of the company who were planning to bring their vehicles though us to New Radnor. There were to be 24 movements in all involving vehicles up to 42m long and the heaviest component weighing 125 tonnes I am working with colleagues to oppose any movement by the Welsh Assembly to use Herefordshire highways to support turbines in Wales.

I am also keeping a watching brief on how electricity from these Turbines links into the National Grid. The Station at Bullocks Mill is our local electricity generator and talk of underground cabling from Turbines to Bullocks Mill may not be the only alternative.

Lyonshall Community Library

This year saw the withdrawal of the travelling library. While a book service is still being maintained to genuine housebound, several communities have worked with HC to establish their

own Community. In Lyonshall with the support of a local community, libraries are held with the village coffee morning, held the second Friday every month. Interestingly the number using the mobile library before in Lyonshall was 4 while 17 people registered in the first month.

Royal George Lyonshall

'The George' has been put up for sale by the owners Punch Taverns and following well attended public meeting the community intend to purchase the considered. A prospectus will be for more details or information contact the Lyonshall website (www.lyonshall.net) . I have informed the Planning department that I support this community proposal and will vigorously oppose any attempt by developers to build on the site.

County Issues

The New Livestock Market was opened in June proving to be very popular with Farmers and has seen a 30% increase in numbers. The 90 million Old Market site development will begin this summer with Debenhams, Waitrose and a 6 screen multi plex cinema as part of the scheme.

Opposition to a By pass for Hereford remains very strong and not helped by the silent majority in favour not speaking up. The Council will be proposing that a bypass/relief road is built from the A49 in the south to the A49 in the north on an inner western route. The reason the west is chosen is that it is impossible to build a complete road to the east as the Lugg meadows are protected by not only UK and also European environmental legislation and therefore you could only build on the East to the A438 (Ledbury road) and not be able to link up to the Worcester road let alone join the A49.Opposition to the road is strong but it is the view of the administration that failure to build the road will mean Hereford and the County will condemn itself to no new jobs, continued low wage levels, severe lack of housing and infrastructure deadlock. The budget contains 300k for the planning work to submit the first leg of the road from A49 to A465 Abervergeny road.

This year saw the Council withdraw from Tourism and instead give a Service Level Agreement of funding to the local tourism group. Chaired by Sir Ben Gill the group is responsible for the marketing and promotion of Herefordshire Tourism. It will be organising the Food Festival on **28th and 29th October in Hightown, Shirehall, Cathedral Close and Castle Green**. It will be free to enter with Mary Berry (cake baking fame) and Stephen Gates (childrens cook) attending.

Working with private sector colleagues the Council has commissioned a new branding for our County. Using the first 4 letters of **HERE**fordshire to create slogans HERE we can, Visit HERE etc. This is to promote business growth including tourism, inward investment and help sell our County and its products. We are also using a Hereford Bull symbol above the last letters that can be patterned rather like the " google " brand to reflect the specific product or company.

As our County boundary signs are being replaced this new logo will be put on all the new signs.

ROGER

If you wish to receive monthly updates please email me.

21. Shobdon Airfield Noise Abatement Group – Cllr. P. Rogers

There have been two meetings during the past year. October 2011 and April 2012

October 2011

Concerns were expressed by residents regarding overflying through the Noise Abatement Areas which are clearly highlighted on the Parish Map issued to pilots flying from Shobdon, and particularly concerns were addressed regarding noise from helicopters from Tiger Helicopters.

It was stated that all pilots flying from and to the airfield were appraised of the appropriate approach and leaving arrangements and of the Noise Abatement Areas.

Tiger Helicopters reported that the actual flying hours would in future be reduced as training entered a 'classroom phase' and that practical flying practice was to be moved in part to Oxfordshire.

It was felt that residents found the mechanism for reporting confusing and that phone calls were not logged.

The Airfield stated that it would not log phone calls as some of them tended to be abusive.

It was agreed that the mechanism for making complaints would be set out in Pembridge Parish Magazine and published on the Parish Website

Residents were asked to continue to use the Airfield website or write to the airfield to register concerns

April 2012

Residents continued to express their concerns about overflying through the Noise Abatement Areas with further concern expressed by flights by large helicopters.

Tiger Helicopters reported that their own flights had been dramatically reduced as described in the previous meeting and that these larger helicopters were Army or Navy machines

Shobdon Airfield were reluctant to 'censure' pilots who transgressed the Noise Abatement Areas preferring to speak to pilots when identified.

In order for this to be done in a timely manner residents were urged to phone such sightings and to follow up with an e-mail. The e-mails would be logged but not the phone calls. The airfield was urged to call the complainant with the outcomes of such complaints.

The outcomes of this meeting were :

- 1 Steve Eyres would attempt to rewrite the directions to pilots regarding the Noise Abatement areas and how to avoid them.
- 2 All Hereford Flying Club Pilots using Shobdon would be contacted to remind them of their obligations regarding the Noise Abatement areas and also of the high number of complaints from residents which were of concern to the Airfield
- 3 The Airports website which has been modernised and is undergoing further modernisation should include a Noise Abatement page that should be easier to find if a complaint is to be made
- 4 Tiger Helicopters is to contact the RAF and the Army who are using the Airport for some training flights and remind them of the need to observe the Noise Abatement Procedures
- 5 Complaints made to the Airfield should be made immediately by telephone and followed up by e-mail. This is a bit of a mission but enables the airfield to identify the culprit to be identified and therefore challenged
- 6 Steve Eyres has offered to retrain the offenders

The next meeting of the Noise Abatement Standing Committee is July 18th

21. Any Additional Electors' Questions

There was just a mention that the sign by the mobile Post Office site is too small.

22. Next Meeting Arrangements

Date to be arranged.

CHAIRMAN

SIGNED: 8th MAY 2013