

## **Chair PC & NDP Report**

There were 11 meetings held in the year to April 2019.

During the year the Parish Council have dealt with matters arising on the parish.

There was another successful litter pick this year attended mostly by councillors.

Investigations have been undertaken to rectify the speeding issues in the village with new 30mph sign ordered for the A480 entrances and discussions are ongoing for new Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for Fishpools and Burgoyne's bank.

Progress has been steady on the NDP over the last year. Consultations have been held at Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 for all parishioners to comment, The regulation 14 responses were reviewed by the steering group and parish council and the plan amended where appropriate. Herefordshire Council consulted at regulation 16 and progressed the plan to examination.

## **Ward Councillor Report**

The Council continues to face the challenge of austerity with the loss of over £60 million of government funding and £30 million increase in care costs over the last eight years. However, despite this situation our finances remain strong compared with similar and other sometimes larger councils.

The cost of supplying care for older adults, adults with severe disability and vulnerable children remains the huge financial challenge across the country. We await the publication of the green paper on social care.

The condition of our 2,000 miles of Herefordshire highways remains a difficult with lack of financial capacity and the extreme pressure placed on the road surface by more and heavy vehicles particularly on minor highways.

I was pleased to see some resurfacing in the parish last summer, but I am aware there remains many sections of highway requiring attention.

The website recording of potholes remains the best way to alert Balfour to problems.

As usual I reported the October traffic figures from the grey box to the west of the village which records the number, type and speed of all vehicles passing by.

I was pleased to see the Local Neighbour plan progress and look forward to it becoming adopted during 2019. My thanks to all the team for the huge amount of work involved in getting this achieved. I have dealt with many planning issues during the year throughout the parish. Housing development in the village has been limited due to delay in Welsh Water investment in the local sewage plant and I continue to place pressure on the company for a date for the work.

During the year I held two meetings for local PC clerks with our Balfour steward, planners and local Community police officer to help with coordination.

During the year I have attended many Parish Council meetings and community events, liaised with local business and community organisations.

I continue to send out monthly updates to my email contacts and any local residents wishing to receive it please let me know.

My thanks to the Chairman, Clerk and the Parish Councillors for their support and continued dedication to our community.

## **Police Report**

Logs for Lyonshall have a small list of incidents that have occurred. On the whole, it is a relatively quiet place to be, crime-wise!

14th July 2018 - A quad bike was stolen from a farm in Lyonshall.

30th July 2018 - A moped that had been reported stolen was found in Lyonshall.

29th August 2018 - A farm workshop was broken into and a quad bike was stolen along with some power tools.

5th September 2018 - We received a report of a suspicious man taking photos of houses. He claimed to work for the Hereford times.

16th December 2018 - A generator was stolen from a camper van.

It should be said; this is a list of incidents that I am able to share with yourselves.

A few general things to note:

We continue to receive reports throughout Herefordshire (though not necessarily in Lyonshall) of door-to-door salesman. These people will attempt to sell you poor-quality cleaning products on your doorstep. These are often very over-priced. Those involved can, but don't always, become aggressive if they are told no. If this happens to you or someone you know we would encourage you to contact us. A "peddlars certificate", issued by Herefordshire council, is required to sell items door-to-door, something many of these individuals do not possess. I would encourage people to be wary of who you open the door to if you do not know who it is and do not be afraid to challenge people, such as asking for identification. We do have several signs that we can give out that say "NO TO COLD CALLERS" on them. Let me know if you think this would be useful for anyone.

Another thing to be wary of is cybercrime. This is crime that takes place over the internet. We encourage people to be careful clicking on emails they find suspicious, as such emails can contain harmful software that attempts to install itself on their devices.

Together with cybercrime, we are also trying to raise awareness of scams that take place over the telephone. Such scams may involve someone calling you claiming to work for HMRC. They will then attempt to coerce you into making a payment for a reason they invent or ask you to pass across sensitive banking details.

Another current scam involves someone calling you and claiming to work for BT. They may then ask you to load up your computer and direct you to a website, which when visited installs malicious software on your computer.

A general rule for the above scams is - be vigilant! HMRC will NEVER call you and ask you to make a payment over the phone there and then. They will also NEVER ask you to provide bank details over the phone. Fraudsters attempt to pressure and manipulate you into making these mistakes. Don't be afraid to challenge people and if in doubt, put the phone down.

**Contact numbers for your local policing team are as follows:**

Police Constable Dean Wall - 07773053846

Police Community Support Officer Felix Rawlinson - 07971051480

Police Community Support Officer Emma Dunne – 07971051474

## **Foot Paths Officer Report**

The footpaths in Lyonshall remain in a generally good state of repair and accessibility, especially relative to other parishes. I am grateful to the residents that have reported issues to me during the year. There are some aspects, especially styles/gates that would have benefitted by work from a Lengthsman whom we sadly do not have presently; to maintain the high quality of the Parish footpath network in the long term to have the services of such

an individual would seem essential. Whilst there have been successful volunteer sessions, there are some works that require more skilled (and insured) labour.

The usual extreme bursts of windy weather have brought blockages and damage.

I feel some organised walks along the impressive footpaths in our parish to increase awareness of some of the lesser used routes should be an objective for coming years and further collaboration with adjacent parishes and local organisations also.

I have been unable to walk all of the footpaths myself this year due to other commitments which is one of the reasons I have not stood for the new term of the council. I, therefore, wish the next footpaths officer the best of luck.

***Richard Oliver***

### **Lengthsman Report**

This year the Parish Council saw the retirement of its Lengthsman Shaun Price. Shaun has supported the parish for 3 years, after advertising the post locally, the PC were unable to recruit a new Lengthsman. As there is no grant funding available for 2018-19 from Balfour Beatty, Council thought use of local volunteers where possible and contractors as required would be trialled.

All annual maintenance work has been completed as per the BBLP plan. A new notice board has been installed at Burnt Orchard.

### **Memorial Hall Report**

The Memorial Hall remains an important asset to the community in Lyonshall, particularly with the long-term closure of the Royal George.

It continues to be used regularly by groups including Mums and Tots, Upholstery class, Bridge Club and Tai Chi. It also hosts regular Coffee Mornings, PCC and Parish Council meetings, parties and Funeral Receptions.

The Memorial Hall Committee enjoyed an active and successful year in 2018, with the important achievement of generally raising the profile of the Hall within the community. We have experienced a new level of enthusiasm since our small Committee has almost doubled in size, with new Trustees being recruited. We have a good team who all work well together which resulted in some very successful fundraising events.

In May the Hall was alive and buzzing with a Colours Fashion Show with around 100 local ladies attending.

Later in the year, our pinnacle was probably the Poppy Weekend in November which grew from a modest idea of celebrating the Memorial Hall's historic connections to WW1, into an event which was embraced by the whole community. The willow War Horse created by Suzanne Hughes stole the show, and became the focal point.

The weekend certainly left a lasting impression and was a fitting tribute to the memory of all involved in the Great War.

This was quickly followed by a Christmas Craft Fayre, which again pulled the community together for a lovely social occasion.

The big financial reward to benefit the Hall was the Co-op Community Fund Grant, with the final pay out realising £7,334.66. This significant total along with other fundraising gives us solid funds to work with.

We are now able to look at replacing the floor and improve insulation in the Hall at the same time. We are carefully working on the logistics for this.

With the exciting launch of a new Government grant scheme to regenerate Village Halls and better connect rural communities, we intend to pursue this so we can seriously consider upgrading and potentially extending the rear extension of the Hall.

Our vision for 2019 is to build on the success of last year, carving out the correct way forward to make the Memorial Hall a valuable and desirable asset to the Community.

### **Lyonshall Tots Report**

The newly formed committee is still running, and we are continuing to have regular meetings and planning lots of seasonal crafts for the summer months ahead. We are working closely with the hall committee and helping and supporting their fundraising efforts to improve facilities at the hall. We are also working with the Herefordshire Children's Centre who visit monthly providing different activities, timetables about upcoming events and groups and advice. Come September we have a few children who will be going to nursery, so we are looking to increase our advertising over the summer to hopefully attract new mums and children to the group. We have a good attendance every week so hopefully this will continue. We thank you for your continued support and are looking forward to the year ahead.