

STONE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2016 - 17

Introductions:

As Chairman I wish to place my sincere thanks to my fellow Councillors, my Vice-Chairman Graham Higgs, Roger Hobson, Diane Bird, Richard Wignall, Pauline Hart and Pauline Hill who have been instrumental in bringing consistency and stability in dealing with Parish Matters.

I would also like to place my thanks to our Parish Clerk, Stephen Clee, for his guidance and direction on parish protocols. I would also like to give thanks to our Wyre Forest District Councillors, Stephen Williams, Ian Hardiman and Marcus Hart who regularly attend our meetings and present us with their District Council reports.

Parish Communications:

Agenda's and Minutes of Council Meetings are to be found on the Parish Council Website at www.wyreforestdc/stone and additionally there will also be copies displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards which are geographically located throughout the Parish. The Notice Boards are able to display and announce details of events being held within our Parish, any Parishioners wishing to use this facility to publish their events should contact the Parish Clerk.

The main areas of spending and income for 2016 - 17 are set out in the table below.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Clerk Salary & Expenses	5,018.54	Precept	7,311.35
PAYE Tax	1,028.66	Churchyard Grant WFDC	Nil
Lengthsman	2,070.25	Localism Grant	600.00
CALC Subscription	280.52	Lengthsman	2,331.50
Bank Charges	1.65	VAT Refund	60.32
Internal Auditing Fees	65.00	AON Insurance Refund	14.99
Insurance	221.76	Mis	1.63
Training	53.65		
Annual Report	75.00		
WCC Highways Leaving Gift	24.90		
	£8,839.93		£10,319.79

Public Footpaths:

We are indeed very fortunate to have many scenic footpaths throughout the Parish which our Footpath Officer, Mr Glyn Walters, regularly monitors for us. The conditions and signposting of the footpaths is reported on to Worcestershire County Council, who is ultimately responsible for the upkeep and care of our footpaths. We are also grateful for any input from our parishioners who may walk our footpaths.

Road Safety:

Your Parish Council is fully committed to improve road safety in our Parish and have continuing dialogue with the Highways Authority at both County Hall in Worcester and the Safer Roads Community Partnership Board, as part of West Mercia Police levels of authority to identify and implement road safety provisions.

Your Council have purchased and employed Activated Warning Signs which are deployed in strategic areas of the Parish in mandatory speed controlled areas. The number of activations triggered by speeding motorists is a grave cause for concern and your Council is actively seeking to have vehicle speed checks carried out by the Police and Highways Authorities.

The Solar Panel operated bend signs at the bottom of Stone Hill on the A448 Road have had a beneficial effect in reducing accidents at this location, however motorists still exceed safe and sensible speeds on our roads and your Council will continue to push for more subjective deterrent actions.

Safety in the Parish:

The reported crime rates in Stone Parish are fortunately very low, but we acknowledge this is something that should not be taken for granted; we have a very active and attentive Policing Team in this Parish, who are in regular contact with our Council and our Police Liaison Officer Councillor Richard Wignall. We look forward to this continuing high regard and to galvanising our relationship when working with the Policing team to maintain our low crime rate.

Environment:

We, like many other rural parishes, are subject to indiscriminate dumping of litter, household and garden waste, together with more and more Industrial materials, especially along Stanklyn Lane. We are constantly active in looking for answers to eliminate this blight on our Parish. We have held discussions and consultations with other local Parish Councils and Wyre Forest District Council; this is an ongoing problem which we will constantly review.

Parish Planning Applications:

Your Council have been consulted and considered 29 Planning Applications over the past Municipal Year, of which most have been relatively straightforward in nature. Each Planning Application is carefully considered against many standards and site visits which are carried out where necessary.

Severn Trent Water – Resilience Pipeline Project:

The major undertaking by STWA to extract water from the River Severn at Stourport on Severn and transport the same via pipeline to Frankley Holding Reservoirs in Birmingham has commenced within the Parish.

We are already seeing Civil Engineering contractors beginning to excavate the course of the pipework delivery system at strategic points within the Parish.

This work will take a considerable time to carry out and it will undoubtedly cause severe local road congestion and road closures.

Whilst SRWA will endeavour to keep this disruption to a minimum, some inconvenience will accompany these works and we ask our parishioners who may be affected by these Civil Engineering works to be patient throughout the period that Stone Parish is affected.

Wyre Forest District Local Area Plan:

In 2015 WFDC began an engagement with the local public on high level issues and options, consequently evidence has been gathered, and this evidence will be presented by way of a Preferred Options for local consultation.

The consultation will publish where and how WFDC plan to provide land to accommodate housing and employment needs, the protection of Heritage and natural assets, together with retail, commercial and leisure needs, with other matters such as infrastructure provisions.

The Preferred Options consultation is to be launched in June 2017.

Your Parish Council; will respond following evaluation of the Preferred Options published by WFDC to ensure our parish concerns are heard and recorded.

When the consultation has closed it is understood the WFDC will submit a final proposal to the Government by summer 2018.

Lengthsman:

I am pleased to report that your Council have been fortunate enough to secure the services of our original lengthsman who has returned to us after a short sabbatical at one of our neighbouring parishes. He will endeavour to keep our Parish in tidy order.

St Marys Church:

There are five churches forming the Kidderminster East Parish namely, St George's, St Chad's, St Cecilia, St Cassian's and St Mary's. The Rector and Senior Priest is Rev Hugh Burton and the team vicar responsible for St Mary's is Rev Robert Legge, the Deacon who is relatively new within Kidderminster East is Rachel Akers.

Conclusion:

The safety and welfare of our Parish residents is of paramount importance to your Councillors, I am most grateful for their support and encouragement in helping to maintain these yardsticks. Several members of the public have attended our Parish Council meetings over the past year and we value their helpful contributions.

Parish Council Vacancy:

Your Council has one Councillor Vacancy currently. If there is anyone who would like to represent their community in this way, please contact our Parish Clerk for details.

Parish Council Meetings 2017 - 2018

The Council will continue to represent residents of the Parish in the best way possible and you are always most welcome to come to our meetings and give us your views and comments on what we are doing. Meetings take place at 7.30 pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 11 th July	7.30 pm	at Parish Room, Stone
Tuesday 5 th September	7.30 pm	at Parish Room, Stone
Tuesday 7 th November	7.30 pm	at Parish Room, Stone
Tuesday 9 th January	7.30 pm	at Parish Room, Stone
Tuesday 13 th March	7.30 pm	PARISH Meeting at Parish Room, Stone
Wednesday 9 th May	7.30 pm	AGM at Parish Room, Stone

Chairman	Cllr. J A Jordan	The Laurels Stone Hill Stone Kidderminster DY10 4AW	01562 753248 E-mail: stoneman-john@live.co.uk
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