

STONE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Introduction

I am pleased to be able to send you Stone Parish Council's Annual Report for the last financial year, which sets out to tell you what we have achieved for the good of the parish in the last year, and how the money raised by the Parish Precept was spent.

Parish Precept

Last year we were able to lower the Parish Precept by 3.4%. However, in this financial year, there has been a reduction of our annual grant from the Wyre Forest District Council of £339 (£185 of which is the Churchyard Maintenance Grant) In light of this your Parish Council thought it prudent to increase the precept by 2%.

The main areas of expenditure and income are set out below:-

Expenditure	£
Clerk Salary	3,709.88
PAYE Tax	64.60
Clerk's Expenses	845.10
Lengthsman	2,333.50
CALC Subscription	203.83
Stone Charity	450.00
Auditing Fees	160.00
Insurance	207.05
Stationery/Printing	65.00
VAT Payments	74.67
Bank Charges	12.75
VA Sign Battery	80.00
Churchyard Grant	370.00
Acrylic Sheet	14.82
WCC Election ?Costs	89.76
Postage	12.72
	8,693.68
Income	
Precept	6,150.00
Shortfall Funding	568.77
Churchyard Grant	370.00
Lengthsman	2,583.50
VAT Refund	489.96
Localism Grant	750.00
Cllr. S Williams Grant	550.00
WCC (Outstanding Lengthsman Fee)	377.00
	11,085.23

Road Safety

The Parish owned solar powered Bend Warning Sign at the bend at the bottom of Stone Hill continues its desired effect of helping to prevent accidents.

We continue to rotate our other Vehicle Activated Sign around the parish to deter speeding.

We are most grateful to our Vice Chairman, John Jordan, for all the work he has put in supervising the effectiveness of these signs, and their maintenance.

Application for site on Heath Lane for Travelling Show People

We were glad to hear in June 2014 that Wyre forest District Council had turned down this application.

Grant for upkeep of Stone Church Graveyards

Although the Grant from Wyre Forest District Council has been reduced by £185, before actually ceasing, we decided to make a grant of £750 for maintenance of the graveyard on Butts Lane where so many members of the parish are buried.

St. Mary's Church, Stone

Although this is totally separate from the Parish Council, we have asked the vicar, the Reverend Robert Legge to contribute to this report, which is as follows:-

During the past year we have continued to fulfil our share of weddings and baptisms, delighting in the fact that so many couples instantly fall in love with the serenity and beauty of our church when they first enter it. This is reflected in the number of couples who contact me to request a wedding or baptism. We have also had prayer and reflective times at Halloween and in the run up to Christmas. We hope to continue these events so please watch out for further details. In addition, we have recently had our annual Bluebell Walk, raising a total of around £200 for our church funds.

As always parking at the church continues to be an issue and I would like to take this opportunity, as vicar of the church to thank Mr James Arbutnott for letting us use his field for parking. It is very much appreciated. Thanks must also go to the Parish Council for their annual contribution to the upkeep of the graveyard in Butts Lane.

It may be that you have lived in the area for some time and yet have never had the chance to see around the church. If you would like to have a short tour of the church I would be more than happy to guide you around the building and explain some of the wonderful features of our church. Of course, you would always be welcome to any of our services at 11.00am every Sunday. Again, if you would like any further details of what we do on Sunday mornings, please contact me.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this information, or if you would simply like to arrange a clergy visit please feel free to contact me on 01562 827214.

Rev. Robert Legge (Vicar St.Mary's Stone)

Broadband in the Parish

Superfast Broadband has just reached Stone with a new cabinet at the bottom of Stone Hill and also at Mustow Green. We already have reports of speeds increasing from 2.5 to 32! You need to contact BT to be connected.

Motorcycle Speeding at weekends through Mustow Green

We have asked the Police to help prevent excessive speed and noise.

Public Footpaths

We have some lovely footpaths in the parish, and although they are ultimately the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council, we are fortunate to have our own Footpath Officer, Glyn Walters, who monitors their condition, and we are also grateful for further input on their state from parishioners who use them.

Lengthsman Scheme

Following the retirement of Bill Waldron we have been fortunate to obtain the services of David Sireshuk who continues the good work. He has now completed his first year.

Meetings

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 14 th July 2015	Parish Room, Stone
Tuesday 8 th September 2015	Parish Room, Stone
Tuesday 10 th November 2015	Wing Room, Stone Manor Hotel
Tuesday 12 th January 2016	Wing Room, Stone Manor Hotel
Tuesday 8 th March 2016	Wing Room, Stone Manor Hotel Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 10 th May 2016	Parish Room, Stone Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Communication

Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings can be found on the Parish Council web site: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish>, together with local information. We have the ability to upload photographs and also announce any events that are taking place. Please send your details to the Parish Clerk if you would like to announce an event. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to receive this Annual Report and Minutes of Council meetings electronically. Information is also placed on the five Notice boards around the Parish.

Conclusion

We have tried during the past twelve months to advance the welfare of our parish, and I am most grateful for the wholehearted efforts of my fellow Parish Councillors, who are always available if there is anything that you wish to bring up about matters in the Parish. Several members of the public have attended our Parish Council meetings and we are most grateful for their most helpful contributions. Incidentally, we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor so if anyone would like to represent their Parish in this way please contact the Clerk for details..

James Arbuthnott
Chairman 2014 -2015

Stone Parish Councillor Contact Details

James Arbuthnott (Chairman) Stone House Cottage, Stone Kidderminster DY10 4BG Tel: 01562 69902 E-mail: james@shcn.co.uk	John Jordan (Vice Chairman) The Laurels Stone Hill, Stone Kidderminster DY10 4AW Tel: 01562 753248 E-mail: stoneman-john@live.co.uk
Diane Bird The New House Shenstone Kidderminster DY10 4BL Tel: 01562 820859 E-mail: dianebird38@btinternet.com	Graham Higgs Talgarth Mustow Green Kidderminster DY10 4LD Tel: 01562 770066 E-mail: thehiggs2007@btinternet.com
Roger Hobson 9 Vicarage Road Stone Kidderminster DY10 4BJ Tel: 01562 66765	Elaine Hyde Keepers Cottage Stanklyn Lane Stone Kidderminster DY10 4AR Tel: 01562 67142 E-mail: Elaine@hotmail.com
Jane Siviter Rose Cottage 29 Worcester Road Shenstone Kidderminster DY10 4BU Tel: 07971 913847 E-mail: janesiviter@hotmail.co.uk	Richard Wignall 21 Stanklyn Lane Torton Kidderminster DY10 4HR Tel: 07592 959813 E-mail: live4minis@live.co.uk
	Clerk: Sue Bamford 6 Santa Maria Way Stourport on Severn DY13 9RX Tel: 07815 744801 E-mail: stone.clerk@hotmail.co.uk