

Hankelow Parish Council

Annual Report 2012-2013



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I start off by thanking my fellow parish councillors for having re-elected me as Chairman in May 2012, and for their support during the year.

We were pleased to welcome the new landlords of the White Lion Public House to our meeting in January 2013, by which time, they had met most of the parish councillors! We wish them well for their future business which we hope will become the heart of the community once more.

We were delighted to win a **Community Spirit Award** in the annual Community Pride Competition and have entered for 2013. We are sure that with the usual sterling efforts of the village, we will be successful again. To mark this win, Cheshire Landscape Trust planted a Bird Cherry at Park View which is near to the wooden seat purchased during the year.

I hope that you enjoy reading this report and find it interesting and informative. We are a small parish council but we achieve a lot with the help of our residents.

Gin Foster: Chairman

COMMUNICATIONS

This report is but one means of communicating with residents. We communicate via notice-boards and, of course, at Parish Council meetings, which are well-attended by members of the public. There is an opportunity at each meeting to address the Parish Council or ask a question.

NEW CLERK

Last May, Ann Jones, our Parish Clerk, retired but has continued to be a regular attender at our meetings.

We welcomed new Clerk, Carol Jones, on 1 July 2012.

FINANCE

In January 2013, the Parish Council agreed its budget for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Key areas of spend are as follows:

Item	£
Clerk's Salary	1,300.00
Thirsk Payroll (PAYE service)	50.00
Clerk's expenses (stationery etc.)	50.00
Insurance - annual premium	300.00
Audit (Internal - A Davenport)	50.00
ChALC affiliation fee	70.00
Cheshire Community Action	50.00
Cheshire County Playing Fields	20.00
Mid-Cheshire Footpaths Society	10.00
Room Hire for meetings	200.00
Burial Board (precept)	200.00
Grants	1,000.00
Grounds Maintenance (The Green)	700.00
Duck Food	140.00
Member Training	100.00
Chairman's allowance/Miscellaneous	100.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Reserves	200.00
	<u>4,640.00</u>

What is a precept?

A parish council receives the majority of its funding from an annual charge, called the **precept**, and this is requested from the Borough Council and then re-charged to local electors through their Council Tax bill. The precept requested for 2013-2014 (£3,400) is divided by the number of Band D properties (128.64) to arrive at a figure of £26.43 which is the additional Council Tax per Band D property.

This is how we spent your money in 2012-2013

RECEIPTS	£
Brought forward	3,786.03
Precept	3,000.00
Parish Plan	100.00
CEC Grant	235.00
Cheshire Community Action	100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>7,421.03</u>

PAYMENTS	£
Administration	
Staff costs (including payroll admin)	1,196.33
Insurance/Audit/Subscriptions	
Audit Commission	60.00
Audit fees (Internal)	45.00
Mid-Cheshire Footpaths Society	8.00
Cheshire Community Action	45.00
County Playing Fields Association	16.00
AON Insurance	435.04
ChALC	65.40
Grant for Coffee club	140.00
Speed Watch	
Purchase of new interactive signs	2,450.40
Miscellaneous	
Feed Store – duck food	105.00
Street re-naming (Old School Lane)	558.00
Wooden seat – Park View	289.94
Chairman's allowance	18.00
Miscellaneous purchases	139.73
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>5,571.84</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION	£
Total Receipts	7,421.03
LESS Payments	-5,658.59
TOTAL	<u>1,762.44</u>
Current account	1,504.31
Building Society account	816.13
	<u>2,320.44</u>
LESS Unpresented cheque	-558.00
TOTAL	<u>1,762.44</u>

MEETINGS

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly, on the first Monday commencing at 7.30 pm. Meetings are held in the Methodist Chapel, Hankelow.

We welcome members of the public at our meetings and particularly at the Annual Parish Meeting which is mainly for local residents (who are registered electors) to discuss parish affairs. Resolutions may be passed at this meeting and the Parish Council is obliged to consider these at its next meeting but not, necessarily, to accept the proposals.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The full complement of parish councillors is five.

Members of the Parish Council

Gin Foster	811558	Ian Jones	812555
Colin Ainley	812320	Tony Lee	811574
Geoff Cope	811453		

The Parish Council plays a vital role in representing local issues and helping to improve the quality of life for parishioners. It provides the opportunity for people to influence decisions which touch their lives and also provides a "conduit" to the Borough Council.

One of the main consultative roles of parish councils, and of great importance, is to comment on local planning applications which may have a positive or detrimental impact on the community. The broad aim of the Parish Council in terms of planning is to keep the area a pleasant place to live, avoiding inappropriate development. Parish Councillors are volunteers elected or co-opted to serve for a period of up to four years and receive no payment.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

The Parish Council has one notice-board (in the lay-by near to the bus stop) and although we do not have our own website, Charlie Foster supports and hosts the Hankelow Village Website which contains the agendas and minutes for meetings, together with other useful parish council and general village information.

The agenda for each meeting is displayed on the notice-board at least three clear days before the meeting, and, space permitting, the minutes are also displayed. If you would like a copy of any information, please contact the Clerk.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Parish Council, along with other parish councils in the borough, works in partnership with Cheshire East Council, the local Police through the Police Cluster meetings, the Nantwich Local Area Partnership (LAP)

and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC).

Each year we appoint parish councillors to each of these groups. The Nantwich LAP is made up of a series of working groups covering the environment, health, business, tourism, highways, youth, urban and rural transport. Unsurprisingly, the Highways Sub-Group is one of the most popular and is well-attended. The LAP membership comprises Cheshire East Councillors and Officers, representation from the Emergency Services, Charities (the Third Sector) and other service providers as well as interested Parish Councils.

The Police Cluster meetings were set up several years ago and there are approximately 10 Parish Councils in each cluster. The purpose of the meetings is for the Police to hear from the parishes about their various concerns and priorities for policing and for the Police to report on their own priorities. ChALC is an independent body serving the needs of Parish and Town Councils (*Local Councils*) and representing their interests across Cheshire, providing advice, representation, networking opportunities and support to member councils.

PERMISSIVE PATH – HANKELOW to AUDLEM

For some time, the Parish Council has been trying to "broker" an arrangement whereby the continuous path between Hankelow and Audlem could be reinstated. Residents will be aware that this became unavailable to pedestrians following the major building work a few years ago at Corbrook Court Nursing Home. The reinstatement of the path was one of the aspirations expressed in the Hankelow Parish Plan as a means of improving safety for pedestrians.

Late in 2012, the Chairman (Gin Foster) together with Mike Hill from Audlem Parish Council, met on site with Tim Morris from Morris Care which manages Corbrook Court Nursing Home. Discussions were positive and although no firm conclusions were reached at that time, Mr Morris was minded to arrange for the path to be reinstated at a future (as yet to be determined) date. Watch this space!

SPEED WATCH

Cheshire East Council installed the 30 mph speed limit signs in Hankelow earlier this year, and to complement this, the Parish Council invested in a speed watch scheme by means of an inter-active device which displays a "smiley face" if motorists are driving at 30 mph or below, and a down-turned face if driving above. We have yet to download the data and at the annual meeting we will be considering how we will use this data to support the scheme.

STREET RE-NAMING

“Old School Lane”

In January, the Parish Council gave consideration to the possible re-naming of that part of Audlem Road which no longer formed the main route to Audlem. This is the road which is next to the Chapel and connects with Hall Lane.

The Borough Council agreed that the legislation allowed for re-naming in certain circumstances, provided that the properties affected were consulted and agreed to the proposed change. We complied with all the criteria, and then consulted each of the house owners, all of whom agreed. The re-naming to “Old School Lane” was approved by Cheshire East Council in March.

At the time of writing, we eagerly await the new road sign which is to be installed in the “near future”.

CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Please try to attend our meetings if you have the opportunity.

Don't wait for controversial planning applications to appear on the agenda! The most important part of the planning cycle is the work that goes on before a development plan is prepared.

We have recently received a document from Cheshire East Council, “Possible Additional Sites Proposed by Developer and Land Interests” consultation, which we will be considering at the annual meeting on 13 May. This is part of CEC's next phase of consultation on the Local Plan.

One of the sites identified is land at Audlem Road to the north of Audlem. The site is 5.53 hectares and the indicative proposal is for 95 new homes.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – 2013-2014	
Date	Notes
13 May 2013	This is the date of both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the <u>Parish Council</u>
1 July	
2 September	
4 November	
6 January 2014	This is the date on which the Parish Council will agree its budget for 2014-2015
3 March	
12 May	Annual Meetings