

# **HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2010  
TO  
31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011**

## **Chairman's Report**

As some challenges are overcome, new ones arise to take their place. Such is the experience of Harbury Parish Council. The Bush Heath Lane development nears completion, with a variety of new homes being made available for local people to rent or buy. The demand for the rented homes was particularly high and demonstrated that this part of the development was truly needed. A new housing needs survey will take place before any further development takes place on the site.

In March the long awaited consultation on the future of the library service began. As we had feared Harbury library was marked for closure but we have been given the opportunity to make a business case for its continuation. The PC organised a public meeting which attracted about a hundred people and it is clear that there is considerable demand in the village for the library service. As a result a small steering group is currently drawing up a business plan that hopefully will result in the library remaining in the village. For this to succeed it will require a lot of goodwill from volunteers who will be staffing the library in the future. I am confident that this can be done since Harbury has such a strong community spirit.

The threat to the library is a consequence of the cuts being made to the County Council's budget. The subsidised bus service is also being cut back and there are other things that both WCC and SDC currently do that will cease. Some of these functions could be replaced by cheaper alternatives, and it is possible that the Parish Council will be invited to take over a service. All will involve added cost and we will have to think carefully about what we can and cannot do.

While budgets are generally being cut, the government remains determined to build a High Speed Rail Line through Warwickshire, within a mile of the village. The Parish Council sees no benefit in the line, and continues to oppose it.

The Parish Council is a collaborative affair and works by relying on the goodwill of the councillors and of the parish clerk. I thank all of them for their hard work this year, especially Nicola whose unfailing good humour is much appreciated.

**Dr Tim Lockley**  
**Chairman, Harbury Parish Council**

## **Planning Report 2011**

Now that the SDC planning portal is well established, members of the public are able to access a great deal of information/advice for themselves which is a great benefit, as it means anyone can see who is applying for planning permission in Harbury at any one time and can make a comment online if they wish.

Householders can also get advice to change their building in any way, cut down or remove a tree or build a fence. Some of these will require planning permission but some may not. There have recently been changes under what is called 'permitted development' which are more lenient than was previously the case.

The web site also has some interactive visuals which give detailed information on certain aspects of planning regulations.

For information the e-mail address is: [planning.applications@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@stratford-dc.gov.uk); for telephone advice the number is 01789 260304.

Currently this year, probably due to the economic situation, there has been little planning in this area. The Primary School has, after appeal, their swimming pool application approved with conditions about access and hours of working which will have to be agreed at a later date when it has been built. Harbury Pre-School were allowed to put up a very fine extension at the Wight School which many of you will have seen and which has provided much needed toilets and storage for the Pre-School as well as a small kitchen.

Members of the council have attended planning training which is an important activity for us to undertake so that we are up to date with current planning regulations.

I would like to thank all the members of the planning working party for their help and input to planning matters during the last year.

**Jenny Patrick**

## **Deppers Bridge Report May 2011**

I have only been in the job for a little over six Months and still getting to grips with the role of Parish Councillor. If any of the residents of Deppers Bridge have any questions or issues, I will be more than happy to raise these at our meetings on their behalf.

So what has happen in the short time that I have represented the Ward:

Not many things appear to happen at Deppers Bridge, firstly the rusted unused BBQ from the recreation area has been removed.

We have decided the rotten Parish notice board will be removed and the empty Phone Box will be used for Parish Notices instead. If anyone has any additional ideas for the use of the Phone Box we will of course give them due consideration.

The High Speed Train HS2 is still an ongoing issue for many of the residents of Deppers Bridge, but how exactly they will be affected is difficult to say at the moment. The Public consultation process is still on going until 29<sup>th</sup> July, and the final route has yet to be announced. The next HS2 Public Roadshow is on 2<sup>nd</sup> June in Ladbroke at the Bell Inn car park from 8am until 8pm. To have your say on HS2 you can visit <http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/>

To celebrate the Royal Wedding, many of the residents got together gathered on the recreational area for a BBQ bringing their own food and drink.

**Steve Ekins**

## **Properties Working Party Report**

The Working Party is responsible for the Village Greens, the Recreation Grounds at Harbury and Deppers Bridge and the Cemetery. A contractor is employed to mow the grass and to carry out a number of regular maintenance tasks. A team of four Councillors (Councillors Knowles, Thompson, Ekins and Hancock) share responsibility for a weekly inspection of the Recreation Grounds at Harbury and Deppers Bridge. This not only satisfies the requirements of our insurers but enables problems to be spotted quickly and resolved.

In my report at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, I expressed the hope that the problem of the staked memorials in the Cemetery would be sorted out in the next year. To my great regret, this has not happened. A few more relatives have been traced and some have repaired their family memorials but this still leaves many others. We will have to take action in the near future to either repair the memorials at public expense and the cost would be considerable or have them laid flat.

Thanks to the tenacity of Councillor Thornley, the BMX track opened last July. It proved very popular during the school summer holidays but unfortunately a young boy sustained a serious injury in September from which fortunately he has recovered. There were problems with getting an ambulance onto the field which prompted the Council to look again at the access to the field in an emergency. As a result, the number of people with keys to the bollards and the central entrance barrier has been increased. Their contact details have been registered with the Ambulance Service and are listed outside the Village Hall. There is also a notice explaining where details are listed in the car park.

The BMX track has been subject to flooding and remedial drainage work has now been carried out. At the time of writing the weather has been extremely dry so we shall have to wait for a wet spell to see if the work has been successful.

There has been some problem with vandalism particularly in the summer. The tennis court netting was damaged and was expensive to repair. The picnic table was damaged beyond repair and removed. The Council has now purchased a more substantial one which will be installed shortly. A new see-saw is also in place and has proved popular. There have been regular repairs to equipment such as new swing seats and work on the platform for the aerial runway will be carried out shortly.

The hard play surface is in a poor state and resurfacing is being carried out aided by a grant from the District Council. We are also replacing damaged slabs alongside the tennis courts.

We received complaints that the lights in the car park were on all night which was wasteful and encouraged youth to hang about in the early hours. A timer has now been fitted so that the lights go off at 10pm Sunday to Thursday and at midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Year 6 of Harbury Primary School were so concerned by graffiti at the field they sent a representative to a Parish Council meeting to suggest the installation of a 'graffiti wall'. We

considered this but were concerned it would be used for yet more offensive comments so will try to clean the equipment promptly especially after it is repainted which is to be done soon.

We received complaints that the village notice boards were extremely messy and if you have noticed a recent improvement, it is thanks to Councillor Summers who has been doing an excellent job in keeping them tidy. The builders at the Wight School removed the notice board there without prior notice but it will be replaced in the near future.

I would like to express my thanks to Councillors Thompson, Knowles, Thornley, Ekins and Summers for their hard work over the past year and as always to the Parish Clerk, Nicola Thompson .

**Sharon Hancock**

## **Environment Working Party Report**

2010-11 has been the year of street lighting. After numerous discussions about switching off some lights between midnight and 5am or by switching to lower energy light fittings, it has been agreed to opt for LED lights. The long life of LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lighting means that lamp changing and lamp failures are a thing of the past. LED lighting life is up to 100,000 hours, where typically this equates to approximately 25 years. The replacement programme should see the first five of these lights fitted shortly (four in Manor Orchard and one in Sutcliffe Drive), with the continuation of obsolete assets being replaced with LEDs. The council also managed to convince Linfoot Homes to erect LEDs in the new development, so at some point soon we should have these new lights and save energy (up to 70% reduction in carbon and in energy consumption) by doing so.

Carrying on the theme of Energy Saving we currently have two councillors of the Environment Working Party as members of Harbury Energy Initiative (HEI), which meets regularly and is open to all. There have been presentations from specialists in photovoltaic panels and hybrid dual fuel function panels, all contributing to the greater understanding of what help residents save on costs and reduce their carbon footprint. The main activity however, has been the drafting and circulation of over 900 questionnaires by the school, with HEI help, on current progress in the village on new energy solutions and sustainable living. The response has been excellent with a large number of questionnaires completed and returned. Over the next few months a children from Year 5 will analyse the results for all to see as part of the plans for launching the HEI campaign at the school in October.

Update of the Parish Plan Survey was launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and will accept entries up to around the 16<sup>th</sup> May, after which the results will be analysed by SDC. Please ensure you have your say in fostering Harbury's future.

**Amanda Lewis**  
**Chair, Environment Working Party**

## Finance & General Working Party Report 2010 - 2011

The current year's precept, 2011/12 has been increased by £1004 (1.51%) to £67,256; this gives an increase of around 5p per year on a Band 'D' property within our Parish.

The F&GP working party recommended to the full Parish Council that this small increase in the Parish Precept would enable the Parish Council to fully fund its plans for the year 2011/12.

A Budget of this level of will allow our plans to be carried out in the following areas:

- **Play areas** – While some of the existing equipment has already been replaced and this is ongoing, there are several repairs taking place at this time. The replacement of the picnic table and resurfacing several areas with a more contemporary surface are in the Properties Groups plans.
- **The Power Of Wellbeing** – This power has replaced the S137 of the Local Government Act; it allows Councils to spend an unlimited amount (subject to budget) on any item provided that it is considered "*likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area and providing the proposed action is not prohibited by other legislation*". The payments made in the last financial year are shown in the Notes to Accounts. We have reduced this budget for this year to £3750 and the Council intends, as in previous years, to spend these funds by targeting, not just local groups, but with priority for the local youth groups.
- **Village Hall Development** – Again, this year we have set aside funds to directly support the development plans for the Village Hall, these funds are set at £5,000.
- **Cemetery** – The risk assessment is still ongoing and funds are available to cover the works required to make the headstones safe; because this process involves contacting the owners of each grave involved it is taking a longer time than originally planned.
- **Street Lighting** – The budget for street lighting is being kept the same as last year, with £4000 to cover new and replacement columns with an additional £4000 for maintenance, with the budget for electricity also being set at £4000 in anticipation of the rises that may be imposed by our supplier, E-On.

A summary of the accounts for last year (2010-2011) are shown below. These are well in line with our planned budgetary controls. Copies of the full accounts are included in the Parish Council Annual Report.

INCOME	
Precepts	66252.00
Interest Received	137.30
Allotment Rents	875.00
Burial Ground Fees	1215.46
Playing Field Hire	200.00

Wayleave	33.96
Grass Verge Contribution - SDC	1251.20
Grant Funding	11,000.00
Sale of Computer	50.00
Sports Club Additional Contribution	310.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>81324.92</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
General Administration	16052.08
Training	236.80
Purchase of Office Equipment	1054.00
Parish Office	3835.85
Power Of Wellbeing	8465.00
Contribution to Village Hall	5000.00
Concessionary Travel	45.00
Running Costs:	
Allotments	865.35
Burial	2194.06
Open Spaces	4354.07
Playing Fields & Car Park	9953.20
Resurfacing of Basketball Court	9458.00
Non-Estate Roads	1605.00
Street Lighting	13275.97
BMX Track	4347.50
Purchase of Village Assets	575.72
Contribution to Sports Clubs Fund	1870.00
Councillors Allowances	1756.14
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>84943.74</b>

The Parish Office, which is open four mornings a week, gives us all access to the Parish Council, via the Clerk, to minutes, reports, planning application etc.

The Harbury Parish Council website provides yet another means to keep in touch with the Parish Council, with online viewing of the minutes, meeting schedules, quarterly reports and the contact details for the all of the Council.

The current Harbury Parish planning applications can be viewed via our website, along with the information from many other Harbury Community Groups.

Please note the web address: <http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk/>

On a personal note I would like to thank our Clerk, Nicola Thomson, for all of the help and support she has given to me and all of the Parish Councillors in the last year.

My thanks also go to my colleagues on the F&GP Working Party, Councillors Tim Lockley, Sharon Hancock, Amanda Lewis and Steve Ekins for their help, contributions and commitment throughout the past year.

***Tony Mancell***

**Chair, Finance & General Purposes Working Party  
May 2011**



# **Harbury Village Hall**

## **Chairman's Report to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Tuesday 19th April 2011**

This last year has been one of considerable progress for our village hall. The committee's original, perhaps over ambitious, hopes for redevelopment have been slimmed down especially in view of the current state of the nation's finances. The initial phases of our development program have at last come to fruition. We now have very smart new toilet facilities including provision for babies and the disabled. The major structural faults in the roof and rear wall have been remedied, sheep's wool insulation installed in a large part of the roof. We have new fire doors and a smart partition in the Farley Room.

It would be unfair to single out individuals for their efforts. The Management and Fundraising Committees have both worked extremely hard. Major fundraising successes being "The Buy a Brick" campaign, two Beer Festivals, large grants from Southam Vision and Veolia, the Rural Cinema and most importantly the generosity of the Parish Council and many individuals, clubs and groups within the village. The backing and encouragement from local residents has been a huge boost.

I believe the improved facilities have been a major factor in the increased level of bookings, significant new users have ranged from The Golden Retriever Club of Great Britain to Bishop's Tachbrook Brownies and from the Aston Martin Social Club to the return of a cycling club.

Where next? We have funds available for the long overdue replacement of the curtains, new shutters for the two serving hatches, the installation of photovoltaic panels and to progress an alteration to the planning application already obtained. We hope to refurbish the kitchen in the near future. It is essential that we maintain the momentum for fundraising and the development of our hall to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century building we can be proud of.

One new innovation is the greater detail on the Parish website. This has certainly produced bookings that we would have otherwise missed.

My personal thanks to all those both committee members and local people who freely give their time and talents to help.

**Geoff Thorpe  
Chairman 2011**

## Reports from Village Groups & Organisations

### Harbury Choir School

Following a grant from the Harbury Parish Council, The Harbury Choir School has used



its £400 award to buy a data projector, screen and stand. We have used the equipment to support our rehearsals by projecting songwords to avoid printing costs. As The Harbury Choir School has continued to grow in numbers over the past year, the projector has been invaluable in our week to week organisation.

In addition we have been using the projector to showcase the children's work and enhance performances. The

picture shows the projector being used in a performance to raise money for SSAFA in November

### Harbury Pre-School

Harbury Pre-School were extremely grateful to the Parish Council for a grant of £4000 for the provision of a disabled toilet in the Wight School. This very generous grant enabled us to complete the building works to improve our pre-school facilities, and the facilities offered by the building as a whole. These improvements provide new easily accessible toilets for the children as well as much-needed storage and office space, and disabled



access to all of Pre-School's facilities. This means that more space is available for the children to enjoy an ever greater range of activities and also means that we are able to offer the facilities required for a modern successful and thriving early years setting. The additional disabled toilet next to the library significantly improves the facilities available for library staff and members of the public.

### Harbury Rugby Football Club

Harbury Rugby Club used the grant of £3000 to provide additional car parking at the Club. This was an invaluable contribution towards the overall cost of £20,000.

The work is complete and has increase our car parking area by 50 new spaces.

Dave Andrews, Facilites Chairman

### Harbury Theatre Group

Please accept the thanks of Harbury Theatre Group for the grant of £165 towards the hire of a skip. This helped towards our costs of clearing the loft at the Village Hall.

Keith Hayes, Chairman

## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

<b>Year Ended</b> <b>31/03/10</b> £.p.		<b>Year Ended</b> <b>31/03/11</b> £.p.
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
310.65	Payments in Advance	333.43
2343.11	VAT Debtor	1833.06
-	Other Debtors	-
100.00	Cash with Clerk of the Council	100.00
64112.12	Cash at Bank	82609.78
-----		-----
66865.88		84876.27
-----		-----
	<b>Less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
1205.50	Creditors	17497.15
-----		-----
65660.38	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	67379.12
-----		-----
47273.91	General Fund Balance B/fwd 1.4.10	47273.91
	Less Deficit	(3618.82)
	Balance 31.3.11	43655.09
	Specific Funds:	
18386.47	Tennis Court Repairs Fund (inc. Netball Fund)	23724.03
-----		-----
65660.38		67379.12
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The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2011 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

These accounts are subject to audit.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 1 DEBTORS

#### **Debts Outstanding**

At the Year End a total of £1833.06 was outstanding and due to the Parish Council. This debt relates to VAT paid and will be re-imbursed during the next financial year.

#### **Payments in Advance**

Two months of insurance premiums	£333.43
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### 2 CREDITORS

These are made up of:

Allowance for audit fee 2010/11	£500.00
Allowance for Streetlighting Electricity	£329.15
Allowance for Pchse of new Streetlighting Columns	£6770.00
Allowance for Re-surfacing of Basketball Court	£9458.00

#### **Payments made in Advance to the Parish Council**

Allotment Rents	£440.00
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### 3 POWER Of WELLBEING

This Power replaces S137 and allows Councils to spend an unlimited amount (subject to budget) on any item provided that it is considered “likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area and providing the proposed action is not prohibited by other legislation”.

The relevant payments were:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Nature of Payment</b>	<b>£</b>
Harbury Choir School	Grant	400.00
Harbury & Ladbrke News	Grant	120.00
Harbury Rugby Football Club	Grant	3000.00
Harbury Theatre Group	Grant	165.00
Harbury Village Hall (Rural Cinema) –	Grant	700.00
Royal British Legion	Grant	80.00
Harbury Pre-School	Grant	4000.00
		-----
		<b>8465.00</b>

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#### **4 FUNDS STATEMENT**

Year Ended 31/03/10 £.p.		Year Ended 31/03/11 £.p.
	<b>General Fund</b>	
42164.84	Balance at 1 April	47273.91
5109.07	Add Surplus/Less Deficit for Year	(3618.82)
-----		-----
<b>47273.91</b>	Balance at 31 March	<b>43655.09</b>
-----		-----
	<b>Tennis &amp; Netball Courts Maintenance Fund</b>	
12393.86	Balance at 1 April	18386.47
5955.78	Add Payment made into Account:	5610.00
36.83	Add Interest for Year	37.56
	Less Payment out of Account	(310.00)
-----		-----
<b>18386.47</b>	Balance at 31 March	<b>23724.03</b>
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#### **Asset Register:**

As of 31 March 2011, the assets belonging to the Council can be summarized as follows:

Community & Land Assets with a Nominal Value:	14.00
Office Equipment	3059.01
Street Furniture (inc. street lights)	121818.02
Cemetery – Land and Chapel of Rest	28500.00
Play Equipment	90071.32
Tennis & Netball Courts	17680.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>261142.35</b>

**HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**

**Year Ended  
31/03/10**  
£.p.

**Year Ended  
31/03/11**  
£.p.

**GENERAL PARISH FUND**

**INCOME**

63137.00	Precepts	66252.00
193.73	Interest Received	137.30
765.00	Allotment Rents	875.00
1798.00	Burial Ground Fees	1215.46
200.00	Playing Field Hire	200.00
33.86	Wayleave	33.96
1251.20	Grass Verge Contribution - SDC	1251.20
-	Grant Funding	11,000.00
-	Sale of Computer	50.00
-	Additional Contribution from Sports Club	310.00
----- 67378.79 -----	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	----- 81324.92 -----

**EXPENDITURE**

15553.01	General Administration	16052.08
300.00	Training	236.80
152.95	Pchse of Office Equipment	1054.00
3963.71	Parish Office	3835.85
3033.34	Power of Wellbeing	8465.00
5000.00	Contribution to Village Hall	5000.00
31.50	Concessionary Travel	45.00
	Running Costs:	
1152.92	Allotments	865.35
3165.20	Burial	2194.06
5121.67	Open Spaces	4354.07
9056.87	Playing Fields & Car Park	9953.20
-	Resurfacing Basketball Court	9458.00
1638.04	Non-Estate Roads	1605.00
9194.99	Street Lighting	13275.97
540.00	BMX Track	4347.50
265.00	Pchse of Village Assets	575.72
2100.52	Contribution to Sports Clubs Fund	1870.00
2000.00	Councillors Allowances	1756.14
----- 62269.72 -----	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	----- 84943.74 -----

5109.07	<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	(3618.82)
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**SPECIFIC FUNDS**

	<b>Tennis &amp; Netball Court Repairs</b>	
	<b>INCOME</b>	
36.83	Interest Received	37.56
2215.78	Contributions From Council	1870.00
3740.00	Contributions From Sports Clubs	3740.00
	Less Payment	(310.00)
-----		-----
5992.61	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	5337.56