

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013

Once again the Parish Council has seen several changes. Following the resignation of six Councillors in May 2012 a by-election was held and the following five members were elected:- John Banks, Gail Brocklehurst, Stephen Holden, Bertha Morral and Keith Stevenson. Norman Bull was co-opted. Councillors Biggin, Horrobin, Massey and Rhodes remained in place. At the first meeting of the full Council Councillors Biggin and Horrobin were elected as Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively.

It was agreed to revert to the recommended practise of monthly meetings to be held on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of December.

“ARKWRIGHT” PARISH HALL

As at 31st March 2013 £291,527.24 was held in the Long Term Project Fund including £288,806.08 in a Bonus Saver Account with NatWest and £2,584.90 in a current account also with NatWest.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS:-

MELLORS LANE PARK

The new path and re-building of the stone wall on the approach to the Park is much appreciated and the Parish Council is very grateful to the D.C.C. for the high standard of work carried out.

CHAPEL STREET PAVEMENTS

After requests over a number of years we are pleased that the pavements in Chapel Street have been repaired and resurfaced.

MOORSIDE LANE DRAINAGE

The problems of flooding in Moorside Lane have been alleviated by a new drainage system as requested by the Parish Council.

PARISH WARDEN

A new Parish Warden (Michael Blastland) has been appointed as from 20 May 2013. We wish him well in his new post.

FINANCE

The Parish Precept for 2013–2014 is £24,987 a decrease of £6,313 on year 2012-2013.

PARISH MAGAZINE

We continue to support the members of the magazine team who work hard to publish the magazine on a bi-monthly basis which is greatly appreciated throughout the Parish and further afield.

PARISH PLAN

The Parish Council has again been pleased to support the Holbrook Parish Plan Group in all their efforts this year particularly with the re-building of the stone boundary walls on “Gorse Piece” which is virtually complete and the continuing work on the Mellor’s Lane Park and the weekly inspections of the play equipment.

PARISH WALKS

All footpaths in the parish are walked annually to ensure they are all open with no obstructions. In addition, Councillor Biggin and other parishioners have organized walks around the parish and further afield which are enjoyed by a goodly number of parishioners.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We continue to support John Meggitt as Chief Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch and are pleased to receive reports from him on a regular basis .

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2012 - 13

Maximum possible number of attendances – Councillors Biggin, Horrobin, Massey and Rhodes **11**, Councillors Banks, Brocklehurst, Holden, Morral and Stevenson **9**, Councillor Bull **8**.

11	Councillor Biggin and Massey
9	Councillor Banks, Morral and Rhodes
8	Councillor Stevenson
7	Councillor Brocklehurst and Horrobin
4	Councillor Holden
3	Councillor Bull

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council was sorry to receive the resignation of Councillor Stevenson in October due to his leaving the parish.

Paul Roberts of Coxbench was welcomed as Councillor at the January meeting following co-option as no election had been called for.

PARISH WARDEN

A new Parish Warden was appointed in May 2013 and is working extremely well. The following is the text of a letter received from a parishioner to the Chairman:-

"I just wanted you and your fellow councillors to know how lovely it is to see the village looking so smart, neat and tidy! I do not know the name of the gentleman doing the fantastic job, but please forward my thanks and appreciation. I have spoken to a number of villagers and they all agree with me. We are all quick enough to grumble – I think "thank you" is just as important."

FINANCE

PARISH PRECEPT 2014/15 - £23,895 which includes a Government Grant of £1,432, reduction of 4% on last year.

PARISH COUNCIL/ RBS CORRESPONDENCE:-

Over the last year the Holbrook Parish Council has had an outstanding problem regarding our arrangements with the Bank. This concerned accusations of malpractice in the administration of the Holbrook Parish Council and the totally separate Holbrook "300" Club accounts.

A letter to RBS dated 25 April 2012 appeared to come from the Holbrook Parish Council however it did not originate from the Parish Council. The letter from an ex Councillor that has been released to us by RBS claimed there had been 'unlawful amendments of mandates' and 'collusion between the (RBS) Branch Manager and person or persons from the Holbrook Parish Council'.

In their letter of 5th September 2012 RBS confirmed that 'due to an oversight on our (RBS's) part the accounts were amended incorrectly'. RBS also confirmed in their letter 'that Holbrook Parish Council and Holbrook 300 Club' are separate entities and two separate mandates are required.'

Review of the full correspondence exchange exonerates the Clerk of the Holbrook Parish Council and those involved with the Holbrook 300 Club of any malpractice. As a result, at the meeting on 31 July 2013 the Chairman proposed that:-

1. This statement is included in the Minutes of this meeting as a public record.
2. That this Council takes no further action on this issue.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for persisting with this correspondence and asked that she formally recorded it in the Minutes.

The Council was advised to share this information with the parishioners and planned to include it in the regular report in the Holbrook Village Magazine but the Editorial Board declined to publish it.

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2013 - 14

Maximum possible number of attendances for all Councillors is 11 except Councillor Stevenson (resigned in October) 7 and Councillor Roberts (appointed January 2014) 4 .

11	Councillor Biggin
10	Councillor Banks and Massey
9	Councillor Brocklehurst and Rhodes
8	Councillor Morral
6	Councillor Horrobin
5	Councillor Bull and Holden
4	Councillor Roberts and Stevenson

Is HS2 Coming through the Parish of Holbrook?

Well, as reported last year in the Derby Telegraph, it might if Derby City Council has its way.

The £43bn high speed rail link (HS2) from London to Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds is a hotly debated issue. There is still no certainty of it going ahead. An engineering options report by Arup, presented to the Government by HS2 Ltd at the end of March 2012, puts forward two locations for a station in the East Midlands: Toton Yard and Central Derby. The former is stated as being a better location for serving the East Midlands region. This is the option referred to on the HS2 website as the Initial Preferred Route.

However, Derby City Council is keen to maximise the perceived economic benefits by encouraging the station to be located in central Derby. The Arup report looks in some detail at the route for the Birmingham to Leeds phase of HS2 and the alternatives associated with the two most favoured station locations in the East Midlands. For the Derby station option, the proposed route runs through the Parish of Holbrook having exited a tunnel adjacent to the A38 at Little Eaton. It then proceeds over embankments, viaducts and cuttings, on the eastern side of the A38, on its way to Sheffield and Leeds.

While Derby is not presently the front runner for the location of a station in the East Midlands, if Derby City Council manages to get its way and the line came through the Parish, the blight to local buildings and countryside would be considerable. The noise and disruption during construction would also affect us all and could last several years. It is stated that up to 18 trains an hour, in each direction, could operate on HS2 Phase 2.

At the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Holbrook, to be held in the "Arkwright" Parish Hall at 7:00 pm on 28 May 2014, copies of the alternative route map for HS2 in the local area will be on display.

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council was sorry to receive the resignation of Councillor Holden in November.

Roger Kennedy of Coxbench was welcomed as Councillor at the October meeting following co-option as no election had been called for.

Glenys Briggs, who has served as Clerk to the Council for 34 years, has announced her intention to retire as and when a replacement Clerk has been appointed.

PARISH WARDEN

Our Parish Warden continues to work extremely well. Very favourable comments have been received from parishioners.

FINANCE

PARISH PRECEPT 2015/16 - £23,769 a reduction of 1% on last year.

FOOTPATHS

The Annual Footpath Walk took place in July as usual and various problems were reported to the Rights of Way Department at the County Council. The Parish Council is very grateful for the co-operation and help in dealing with Rights of Way matters received at various times during the year from the Derbyshire County Council.

STONEY LANE

The Parish Council is very appreciative of the help received from the Working Party (residents and some Parish Councillors) which cleared the overgrowth along the lane and also to the D.C.C. for taking it away.

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2014/15

Maximum possible number of attendances for all Councillors is 11 except Councillor Holden (resigned in November) 8 and Councillor Kennedy (appointed October 2014) 5

11	Councillor Roberts
10	Councillors Banks, Biggin, Massey and Ms. Morral
8	Councillors Mrs. Brocklehurst and Rhodes
6	Councillor Bull
4	Councillor Kennedy
2	Councillor Holden

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Glenys Briggs, who had served as Clerk to the Council for 34 years retired and was co-opted onto the Council in July 2015.

Following a request for new councillors Kath Gruber was co-opted onto the Council in February 2016.

Following the retirement of Glenys Briggs the Council appointed Hannah Owen as Clerk and responsible Financial Officer.

PARISH WARDEN

Our Parish Warden continues to work extremely well. Very favourable comments have been received from parishioners.

FINANCE

PARISH PRECEPT 2016/17 - £24,879 an increase of 4.67% on last year.

FOOTPATHS

The Annual Footpath Walk took place in July as usual and various problems were reported to the Rights of Way Department at the County Council. The Parish Council is very grateful for the co-operation and help in dealing with Rights of Way matters received at various times during the year from the Derbyshire County Council.

DOG FOULING

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about dog fouling and continues to seek ways of stopping this anti-social behaviour by a minority of dog owners.

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2014/15

Maximum possible number of attendances for all Councillors is 11 except Councillor Mrs Briggs (co-opted in July) 9 and Councillor Mrs Gruber (co-opted in February) 3

10	Councillors Roberts and Massey
9	Councillors Banks, Mrs. Briggs and Rhodes
8	Councillor Mrs Brocklehurst and Kennedy
5	Councillor Bull
3	Councillor Mrs Gruber

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council was sorry to receive the resignation of Councillor Gruber in December.

Simon Bullas and Tracey Barker of Holbrook were welcomed as Councillors at the February meeting following co-option as no election had been called for.

PARISH WARDEN

Tom Connors resigned from his position of Parish Warden in November 2016. Tom had worked hard for the Parish and the Council wished him well for the future. Stephen Beardmore was appointed Parish Warden in January but unfortunately had to resign in March and finished his position in April. Stephen worked incredibly hard for the Parish and we were very sorry to see him leave the role. Interviews for the position are to be held shortly.

FINANCE

PARISH PRECEPT 2017/18 - £25,794

FOOTPATHS

The Annual Footpath Walk took place in July as usual and various problems were reported to the Rights of Way Department at the County Council. The Parish Council is very grateful for the co-operation and help in dealing with Rights of Way matters received at various times during the year from the Derbyshire County Council.

STONEY LANE

The Parish Council is very appreciative of the help received from the Working Party (residents and some Parish Councillors) which cleared the overgrowth along the lane and also to the D.C.C. for taking it away.

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

Maximum possible number of attendances for all Councillors is 11 except Council Gruber (resigned December 2016) 7, Councillor Bradshaw (appointed in August) 8, Councillor Bullas (appointed in Feb 2017) 3 Councillor Barker (appointed Feb 2017) 3

11	Councillor Massey and Roberts
10	Councillor Briggs
9	Councillor Rhodes
8	Councillor Kennedy
7	Councillor Bradshaw
5	Councillor Gruber and Bull
3	Councillors Barker and Bullas

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council has operated with full membership since the co-option of Ann Cruickshank in July 2017.

PARISH WARDEN

Jonathan Mitchell was appointed Parish Warden in June 2017 and has worked very hard since his appointment

FINANCE

PARISH PRECEPT 2018/19 - £26491

FOOTPATHS

The Annual Footpath Walk took place in July as usual and was very well attended.

STONEY LANE

The Parish Council is very appreciative of the help received from the Working Party (residents and some Parish Councillors) which cleared the overgrowth along the lane and also to the D.C.C. for taking it away.

GORSEY PIECE

The Parish Council has completed numerous working parties at Gorsey Piece this year and are grateful to all who attended.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Fundraising has begun with a Go Fund Me page for the defibrillator which is to be housed at the adopted Phone Box on Town Street. More fundraising will take place at the Village Fete in July.

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Refurbishment work is now well underway and huge improvements to the Hall can already be seen. Phase 2 of the project has been put out to tender and the contractor will be beginning work on the next phase shortly.

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2017/18

Maximum possible number of attendances for all Councillors is 11 (except Councillor Cruickshank who has been a councillor for 9 meetings)

- 11 Councillors Massey and Bullas
- 10 Councillors Mrs Briggs, Bradshaw, Rhodes and Roberts
- 9 Councillors Kennedy and Barker
- 6 Councillors Bull and Cruickshank

HOLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council has operated with full membership all year.

PARISH WARDEN

Jonathan Mitchell has remained in position all year.

FINANCE

PARISH PRECEPT 2019/20 - £ 26525.12p

FOOTPATHS

The Annual Footpath Walk took place in July as usual and was very well attended. It has been agreed that more detailed forms will be completed by those taking part in the footpath walk 2019.

STONEY LANE

The Parish Council is very appreciative of the help received from the Working Party (residents and some Parish Councillors) which cleared the overgrowth along the lane and also to the D.C.C. for taking it away.

GORSEY PIECE

The Parish Council has completed numerous working parties at Gorsey Piece this year and are grateful to all who attended. The Parish Council is undertaking a project to make the area accessible for wheelchair users and anyone using mobility aids.

DEFIBRILLATOR

The defibrillator has been ordered and the restoration of the phone box has begun. Thank you to all who have donated to the project. Thank you to Chris Ottowell who has kindly offered to complete the refurbishment of the phone box.

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

The work at the hall is nearly completed and everyone is delighted with the results. NSJ were awarded the phase two contract.

ATTENDANCE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2018/19

Maximum possible number of attendances for all Councillors is 11

- 11 Councillors Massey and Roberts
- 10 Councillors Barker, Mrs Briggs, Bullas and Rhodes
- 9 Councillors Bradshaw and Cruickshank
- 8 Councillor Kennedy
- 3 Councillor Bull