



### Newsletter



Welcome to this 50th edition of your Parish Quarterly Newsletter which the Parish Council have been producing and circulating for over 12 years now. We hope that you look forward to it each Quarter, and that you find it informative and helpful. If so, please feel free to send the Ed cake !!

### Parish Council 125th Anniversary—a potted history

Talking of milestones, it is timely to mention that this year marks 125 years of Parish Councils, including this one! Parish Councils were (for the most part) created in 1894. Before then, the affairs of the parishes had been administered by a vestry or a meeting of village inhabitants. These vestry meetings usually comprised of the Squire, the parson and the principal ratepayers. Some became "select vestries" and were only open to those people deemed 'suitable' to serve! The Bill to create Parish Councils in 1894 was driven by a desire to break from the power of the Church of England over the lives of non-conformists, and non-believers. It had a difficult passage through parliament (who said Brexit was a new phenomenon!), but when passed, it transferred all non-ecclesiastical functions from the church to the elected Parish Councils. The regulations under which the first Parish Councils operated were not very tight, and the influence of the church was not easily diminished. Indeed, in the early days the parson was often a parish councillor. The first meeting of Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council was held on 31st December 1894 in the Boardroom of the Union Workhouse. The elected chairman was Michael Tomkinson, carpet manufacturer of Franche Hall, with Alfred Thursfield, solicitor, as unpaid Clerk. Indeed, in years past, the parish area saw many residents who were involved in the local carpet industry, including the great grandfather of your current Clerk, who was a dry-salter, and lived in Low Habberley. This (then particularly large) parish has undergone perhaps many more changes in the past 125 years than a lot of parishes have experienced. The "Forain" of Kidderminster referred to the area outside of the borough of Kidderminster, and Kidderminster 'Foreign' Parish Council once represented this large area and had three wards—Ward one—Trimpley, Habberley, Franche and Puxton, Ward two—Wribbenhall, Netherton, Blackstone, Sutton and the Lea, and Ward three—Hurcott and Comberton. This large "Foreign" area commanded a Parish Council of 15 councillors—5 from each ward. In 1901, Wribbenhall was removed, and in 1912, Comberton, Shortheath, Foley Park, Whitville, Franche and Broadwaters were removed and placed in the Borough of Kidderminster and in 1933 the remainder of Franche, Puxton, Sion Hill, Hurcott, Offmore, part of Stone, Hoobrook, Rifle Range and part of Habberley were similarly removed—despite strong resistance from this parish against the erosion of the rural area around Kidderminster, and it being incorporated into the Town Borough. These areas, at the time, were almost entirely rural in nature, and were swallowed into the growing urban area, and eventually in 1934 the parish had contracted to its present size, with 7 parish councillors, and the meeting place changed from Kidderminster to Trimpley School. A list of Parish Councillors since the 1930's can be found in Trimpley Village Hall.

The present Local Government Act, by which the current operation of Parish Councils is ruled, came into being in 1972, and restricts the Parish Council in only being able to spend the public's money on projects or actions for which they have a Statutory Power. This restriction of power held is often misunderstood by the public; however, if this is not adhered to, then the Auditor has the right to "fail" the accounts, and each of the councillors could be required to repay any monies illegally spent. Parish Councils—now perhaps better named as local councils as they no longer relate to anything ecclesiastical—are empowered to raise money through a tax called the "precept" on the residents of the parish. This is collected via the Council Tax by the District Council, and paid to the parish in two instalments throughout the year. Parish Councillors receive no payment, with the only paid employee being the Clerk. The Council works hard to maximise Parish funds, and keep the Parish Rate commitment on your parish Council Tax as low as possible. Grants may be obtained from other sources, but it is often left to the Financial officer and Councillors to seek these out and apply on behalf of their electorate. Some of the Parish Council functions can be found overleaf.

### Local "What's on"

**Village Hall— December 7th**—Entertainment by Secret Cabaret

**Spooky Woodland Trail at Habberley Valley**—31st October 5-6pm, for 5-10 year olds. Book:01562-732986

**Church**—"Thanks to everyone who came to Holy Trinity, Trimpley, to chat about the future of the church - we'll do our best to update everyone as time goes on. Generally, there are Services on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. We hope to have a **Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 22nd December at 4.30p.m and a Crib Service on Tuesday 24th December at 3p.m.** Flyers, posters and Facebook posts @HolyTrinityChurchTrimpley will give more information nearer the time. Just come as you are - all are welcome!"

### Parish Council Matters

[www.kfpc.org.uk](http://www.kfpc.org.uk)

The public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors and usually local police in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. These are the dates of the next meetings, all held in Trimpley Village Hall @ 7.30p.m. -

**Monday 18th November, Monday 16th December and Monday 20th January**

**Your Current Parish Councillors are:**

Mrs. C. Gammond : (Chair) Tel: 01299 402929  
Mr. J. Gammond : Tel 01299 400750  
Mr. C. Grainger : 01299 403231  
Mrs. L. Green : Tel 01562 747180  
Mr. C. Jordan : Tel 01299 861484  
Mr. B. Phillips : Tel 01299 861661  
Mr. G. Yarranton : Tel: 01299 403835

Please feel free to contact them (or the Clerk (see overleaf)) on any matters of concern re life in the Parish, or come along to the **Public Open Forum** at the start of every meeting.

## Some of the matters attended to by your Parish Council

If you take a look at your current Council Tax bill, you will see the Parish amount which, this year, (for a Band D property) is £22.87 per annum in this parish (i.e. less than 50p per week per household), levied as a Tax for the Parish Council to represent parishioners to the best of their ability, and to work in the best interests of the Parish as a whole. All the Parish Councillors hold office in a voluntary capacity, and receive no remuneration. The Clerk/ RFO is employed for 6.5 hours per week to carry out work directed by the Council. These are just **some** of the things the Parish Council do for the Parish amount collected from you:

### **Lengthsman Contract**—under grant from the County Council

- direct local works to keep water off road; opening and clearing drains, cutting back and clearing obstructive vegetation and leaf-fall, hand-gritting of roads, cleaning road signs and reporting overgrown roadside hedges.

### **Litter Collection**—under Localism Grant from the District Council

- emptying of public litter bins in the parish, and incidental litter picks

### **Rights of Way** - under grant from County Council

- arranging cut-back of seasonal growth from paths
- At other times, reporting abuse of Rights of Way, arranging for replacement of stiles, checking routes and waymarking, arranging removal of blockages, and promoting recreational use of the Parish rights of way by volunteer PPROW.

### **Other Highway works**—by liaising with the County Council

- reporting potholes and road defects, often in site meetings
- arranging improved signage and road surface conditions
- reporting blocked drainage and flooding for attention
- ensuring adequate grit supplies for winter conditions

### **Street furniture/scene**—providing and maintaining parish noticeboards and benches and flower planting

### **Grants**—consideration of grants which can be legally given to local organisations of benefit to parishioners

### **Trees**—liaise with District Arboriculturist specialists re tree preservation and safety, with two Parish Tree Wardens

### **County-wide Local Plans**—studying and commenting on plans for future decades concerning minerals, transport, environment, etc. and their affect on the parish and area

### **Training**—attendance at County Association events to keep knowledge and training up to date.

### **Planning**—on consultation from the District Council

- comment on every planning application in the parish
- visit sites to discuss plans if further information required
- liaise with the District Council on matters of enforcement
- attend and/or make representations to Appeals
- keeping abreast Planning Legislation—e.g. Permitted Development

### **District Local Plans**—studying and commenting on plans for future decades on a variety of matters e.g. planning in the district and parish

### **Administration / Finance**

- production and distribution of this quarterly newsletter
- maintenance of up-to-date website, ensuring publication as required of official documentation and accounts
- ensuring compliance with and keeping abreast of all legal aspects of Council Law, producing policies and contracts and maintaining healthy budgets and accounts for audit

### **Liaison with other Bodies**—regular liaison with :

- Police—to help maintain the Parish as a safe place to live
- Severn Trent & Water Authorities—re Trimpley Reservoir & water related items—burst mains, flooding, etc.
- Church / Village Hall / Clubs—to maintain activities within the parish
- Arley Estate—re woodland and parking at Eymore
- Severn Valley Railway—re passage through the parish
- Local Woodlands—Woodland Trust—re Wassell Wood and other tree matters, helped by two volunteer Tree Wardens
- Environmental issues—re Habberley Valley via the District Council, Trimpley Common concerning habitat and wetlands
- BT OpenReach and Superfast Worcestershire—re telephone and broadband matters
- Western Power Distribution—re electricity supply

We also liaise every month with your District Councillors Paul Harrison and John Byng and County Councillor Ian Hardiman, who in turn work with District and County officers and departments in order to bring about the best possible representation and services for your parish area.



## Winter Weather Precautions

The Parish Council have checked all the roadside yellow gritbins to ensure a supply of road grit salt for the winter. This grit is for exclusive use on the Parish roads, and **not** to be taken away for use on private property. Local parishioners are welcome to hand-spread the grit on the roads adjacent to the bins; however, theft from these bins is anti-social, and illegal, and will be reported to the police. In periods of snow and inclement weather, please keep check on elderly neighbours to see if they need a helping hand, with fetching shopping, medications, etc.



## Noticeboards & Seats



You may have seen that we have arranged for Parish Council owned seats and noticeboards to receive a coat of preservative in the hope that they will last a few more years, and we are also planting spring bulbs by these.

## Dark Nights and Security

Don't forget to put your **clocks back 1hr. from 2a.m. 27th October**, and with decreasing daylight, be security conscious, as there has been a spate of burglaries locally. Stacey Williamson, the North Worcestershire Police Superintendent is committed to reducing burglaries with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Keep doors and windows locked and secure, and do make use of your Smartwater kits.



## Hallowe'en and Bonfire Nights

A timely reminder to keep Hallowe'en celebrations away from alarming our more elderly residents and to protect pets and livestock from bonfires and fireworks.

And before putting a match to that bonfire, please check it is not the home of one of our endangered hedgehog friends!



Also please be considerate of smoke nuisance to neighbours with those autumn garden bonfires.

## Free Home Energy Check

Age UK BRWF are offering residents **FREE** Home Energy check assessments, checking the temperature inside of homes, inspecting heating systems and investigating drafts. Depending on the outcome they will also fit energy saving lightbulbs, reflective panels behind radiators, socket times and night lights **FREE OF CHARGE**. Appointments are free but availability is limited. Please, if you know of an elderly person who could benefit, get them to book an appointment - call Sam Jones on 01527 871840. Age UK BRWF is a registered charity (No. 4165891). **Always check ID of any callers.** Also, although not free, if you haven't had your chimney/flue swept or checked during the summer, please do so for safety's sake, before lighting fires/log burners.

## Recycling

Just a reminder that there is a can recycling bin at Trimpley village hall for your use and convenience. Proceeds to charity.