



New Electoral Year—New Council

By 4th April, the Electoral Officer at Wyre Forest had received just 6 valid nominations for our Parish Council for 7 seats. This was in part due to the fact that after an astonishing achievement of almost 45 years service, it is with much sadness that we have to announce that Councillor Mrs. Carole Gammond has decided to retire from office for health reasons.

For more than half of this time, I, as Clerk, have had the pleasure of working alongside her, and I can honestly say that there are few people in the parish today with such a depth of local knowledge than Carole. She has been my staunch support throughout my time at the parish, and I am pleased to say my friend during all of those years and the Council will be very much poorer without her hard work and common sense approach. Until recently she was also the Public Rights of Way Warden for the parish, and she served several terms as parish council chairperson. She was also an active member of many village organisations—WI, Trimpley Players, Village Hall, not to mention the wider ranging bodies of the Woodland Trust, archaeological groups and advisory boards, and still runs the neighbourhood *trimpleywatch*, for the safety and information of local people.

Carole always was my “go to” person for knowledge on all things from procedural official items to location of highway drainage, and I am pleased to say that she is still happy to help with her depth of experience and historical knowledge of local matters if required and consulted. The vacancy leaves a seat on the Parish Council to be filled as insufficient candidates had been nominated by the closing date of 4th April. The vacancy, which will officially occur from 9th May, will now be filled by the Council itself in a co-option exercise, and as such, anyone interested in applying to stand for this vacancy on the Parish should contact the Clerk, details as below, for an application form.



Meantime, our first thoughts are with Carole, in wishing her well for her retirement from office, thanking her for all the time and effort given voluntarily to the parish and local people over an amazing 45 years, and our best wishes for the future.

Spring Flowers



Thanks to the volunteers who turned out in December to plant bulbs, our parish has seen the fruits of their labours over the past month or so with spring flowers in abundance. We hope that this has brought some joy to parishioners locally.

Linda Iles advises that swathes of “bluebells can also be seen in many parts of the Wyre if they haven’t been swamped by brambles and bracken or shaded out by trees. Damp valleys will also have swathes of Wild Garlic (or Ramsons) announcing their presence by their strong scent, echoed by the tall stems of Garlic Mustard which are sought out by Orange Tip butterflies for egg-laying.” Parts of this parish too will soon have expanses of bluebells, and wild garlic, particularly in Eymore wood. Let’s get taking lots of local photos!!



Parish Council - Please visit our website : www.kfpc.org.uk

The public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. Opposite are the dates of the next meetings, which are usually on the 3rd Monday of each calendar month, (unless altered for special reasons) and are held in Trimpley Village Hall.

Please see agenda, posted before each meeting on the website or noticeboards, for details.

Now only distributed electronically, and therefore with less restriction on space, your Newsletter this quarter is 3 pages in length.

Next Meetings (starting at 7.30pm) are: Your Current Parish Councillors are: 15th May (Annual Meeting of the PC), 19th June, and 17th July 2023.

Mr. J. Gammond: Tel: 01299 400750
Mrs. C. Gammond : Tel: 01299 402929
Mr. C. Jordan : Tel: 01299 861484
Mr. C. Grainger : Tel: 01299 212174
Mr. C. Holford : Tel: 01299 404678
Mr. B. Phillips : Tel: 01299 861661
Mrs. S. Stone : Tel: 01562 824666

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.

Valley Close—Before and After



Following complaints from residents, the Parish Council took up the matter of the very poor road surface in Valley Close. The matter was made more complicated in that the road is not one adopted by the County Highways. From the roadsign onwards, the road belongs to Community Housing. After months of lobbying, and with support from County Councillor Hardiman, Community Housing have resurfaced the road they own, which, as you can see is now much better.



Proposed Housing at Low Habberley

Your Parish Council has strongly opposed the green-field development proposed at Low Habberley since first it appeared in the Local Plan in 2018, and with the submission of both an appeal against refusal of the initial application, and now a new planning application (23/0200) we will continue to fight against development of this site. We would, once again, urge everyone who is in opposition to this application to also submit their own individual comment to Wyre Forest District Council Planners without delay to strengthen this opposition. Parish Council comment against the most recent application will be posted on the parish website.

Gordon Yarranton

As I write this newsletter, I have received the very sad news of the passing of our former Parish Councillor Gordon Yarranton. Gordon spent several years serving this parish as a local councillor, and also served the area as District and County Councillor. Parishioners may not realise how they benefited from funding he secured to be spent locally, to improve many aspects of life in this parish, and for this, and his tireless work, he will be fondly remembered with gratitude.

He leaves a daughter and granddaughter, and the thoughts of The Parish Council along with many friends locally, and former colleagues are with them at this sad time. RIP Gordon.



Litter Bins in the Parish

You may have noticed that litter bins around the parish area have been removed. The reason for this is the reduced payment offered by Wyre Forest District Council for the parish to continue with this service under contract. Had the Parish Council made the decision to continue to empty these bins, then the cost would have to be passed on to you, our parishioners, by an increase in the Parish Rate in your Council Tax bill. This we were not prepared to do ... since many of the bins were not used at all by yourselves, local parishioners, but by visitors to the parish. Wyre Forest for their part said they were unprepared to undertake the emptying and servicing of these bins, and so we requested that, as they were not going to be emptied, they should be removed, as they would soon overflow with rubbish. We are hopeful that visitors will take home their rubbish with them, and will keep a watchful eye on the situation, and if litter becomes a problem, it will be reported to the District Council, who have a statutory duty in this respect, for remedial action.

.. And thanks again to volunteers

And once again, I am happy to report that a small number of local parishioners have decided to set up a litter picking group to regular pick up randomly discarded litter in the local area. Thanks again to our parishioners who give freely of their time to make this a lovely place to live.

Parish Rate Comparisons

You may have noticed—in your Council Tax Invoice—that after years of careful budgeting, the Parish Council have again managed to maintain a very low, reduced parish rate of tax.

Parish & Town Councils	2022-23			2023-24			Council Tax Increase/ (Decrease) (£)	Council Tax Increase/ (Decrease) (%)
	Tax Base	Precept £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precept £	Council Tax Band D (£)		
Kidderminster Town Council	17,498	831,160.00	47.50	17,679	879,566.00	49.75	2.25	4.7
Upper Arley Parish Council	358	16,110.00	45.00	359	16,155.00	45.00	0.00	0.0
Bewdley Town Council	3,627	205,542.00	56.67	3,666	276,622.00	75.46	18.79	33.2
Broome Parish Council	210	6,000.00	28.57	207	6,300.00	30.43	1.86	6.5
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council	766	34,738.10	45.35	765	34,693.00	45.35	0.00	0.0
Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council	804	28,922.04	35.97	805	34,019.30	42.26	6.29	17.5
Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council	424	4,745.00	11.19	432	4,745.00	10.98	(0.21)	(1.9)
Ribbesford Parish	111	0.00	0.00	107	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
Rock Parish Council	1,265	55,100.00	43.56	1,296	57,650.00	44.48	0.92	2.1
Rushock Parish Council	77	3,372.00	43.79	80	3,608.00	45.10	1.31	3.0
Stone Parish Council	291	15,220.00	52.30	298	17,170.00	57.62	5.32	10.2
Stourport on Severn Town Council	6,985	305,245.00	43.70	7,056	335,866.00	47.60	3.90	8.9
Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council	1,804	80,246.33	44.48	1,988	92,839.60	46.70	2.22	5.0
TOTAL/AVERAGE	34,220	1,586,400.47	46.36	34,738	1,759,233.90	50.64		

As the table above shows, we have set a precept (parish tax demand) of less than a quarter of the average for the district. At around 21p per week per household, (less than £1 per month), we pride ourselves in keeping taxes low for our parishioners. Parish Councillors work on a voluntary basis, and give freely of their time and efforts whilst trying to secure the best standards and conditions in the parish for local people.

Holy Trinity Church, Trimpeley



"All are most welcome to all Services at Holy Trinity. There is a Service of Holy Communion and a Service of the Word every month, and a 15-minute Service of Morning Prayer every Friday. All Services are followed by coffee and biscuits - sometimes cake! Our popular All Age Service continues monthly, usually held in the Village Hall. At the recent Mothering Sunday Service posies of locally grown flowers were shared and we all made origami tulips. (Photo below). Thank you to everyone who has generously supported fund-raising events in the past. These continued with a successful Bulb Sale in February where many plants found new homes (Photo). Our thoughts are turning towards producing the 2024 calendar, so it's time to get taking landscape photos of the local area. More details to follow. Other fund-raising activities include a Coffee Morning with Cake Sale on Saturday May 20th in the Village Hall from 10am until 12; another Plant Sale in early June, so anyone with green fingers please get sowing; and a quiz evening later in the year.

A new bench is now in place in the churchyard in recognition of Val and Ben Corfield's service to church and community. It will be dedicated on the 23rd April at 10.30 following the Sunday Service. There will be coffee and cake to celebrate. Everyone is, as always, welcome."

Neighbourhood Watch

Alongside Carole Gammond's very successful and award-winning *trimpeleywatch*, we would also recommend that you try and sign up for Neighbourhood Matters (website www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) to receive email alerts concerning police matters within the West Mercia area.



Forestry Scheme in Eymore Wood

On 17th March 2023 councillors met with representatives from Arley Estate and Bronwins, who are in the first stages of work on a forestry scheme affecting Eymore Wood. The 5 year Countryside Stewardship Scheme has been agreed by Natural England and the Forestry Commission. Councillors had received concerned comment from the public about the workings of the scheme, and areas of work were inspected. In accordance with conservation guidelines, one of their main aims is to widen rides (pathways) through the forest, to allow light to sections of the woodland floor. This is to encourage floral diversity and to encourage wildlife (insects, birds and animals) who use the rides. So the ride edges have been cut back, and later this year, there will be a mulcher to deal with some of the debris left. Bronwins hope to keep these wider rides clear, and control of bramble and bracken will be undertaken, with the wider rides also helping to create effective fire breaks in case of wild fires. As can be seen from the photo below, some areas have had extensive felling, but the brash has been kept in rows, and later in the year, Bronwins will be replanting in the clear areas between the brash, whilst the brash provides a habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife. The felling is to create pockets of younger trees thus ensuring long term sustainability of the woods or to remove diseased species such as Ash. Most of the plastic tree guards from previous planting, more than a decade ago, are now causing unsightly litter, and are no longer required, and Bronwins have promised that later in the year, when labour is available, these will also be removed. Of necessity, the first stages of the 5-year scheme sometimes give a drastic visual effect, which was of much concern locally, but Bronwins state that this first year will be the start of a new lease of life for Eymore Wood, which will take several years to develop, and also engender a welcome biodiversity in the wood which has been missing due to lack of previous management. Those involved in the scheme ask that, via the Parish Council, information is passed on to the public who hold this woodland dear, and ask for patience and forbearance with what may seem brutal in these early stages, but which, given time, will hopefully bring about a longer-term improvement for woodland wildlife and flora.



Trimpeley Green WI Meetings

17th May—Mary Quant (Pt 2) with Ruth Lowe

21st June - Midsummer Walk, 7pm start finishing with refreshments in Bewdley

19th July - Native Orchids and wild Flowers with Wilson Wall.

Meetings (usually) commence at 7.30p.m. in Trimpeley Village Hall, and are held on the Third Wednesday of each month. New members welcome.

Parish Events for your diary

29th April—7.30pm "Wychbury" Live Music at Trimpeley Village Hall—Proceeds to Local Charity

6th May—6pm—King's Coronation Tea Party.

29th July—10am-9pm—Trimpeley Music, Food & Heavy Horse Festival 2023

6th August—10a.m. Trimpeley Vintage Rally

23rd September - Live Music event at Trimpeley