



April Showers bring forth Spring Flowers in the Parish



With thanks to all those who gave their time voluntarily to turn out in November and plant bulbs around the parish, there has been a great welcome locally to Spring with a host of golden daffodils! The bulbs were purchased by the Chairman from an Annual Allowance given for the Chair to spend how they wish, and this year Cllr. Holford decided to purchase bulbs to plant in the village. Volunteers have a major impact on life in the parish, helping to keep the area tidy and in good shape. A prime example of this is the Cake and Rake regular meetings held, usually on Thursdays, to keep the churchyard tidy. The willingness of these volunteers has paid dividends in making the parish a "golden" place to live, and to be enjoyed by everyone.

Parish Rate in Council Tax held down by very low Parish Precept

Parish & Town Councils	2023-24			2024-25			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	17,679	879,566.00	49.75	17,744	1,024,716.00	57.75	8.00	16.1
Upper Arley Parish Council	359	16,155.00	45.00	358	17,770.50	49.92	4.92	10.9
Bewdley Town Council	3,666	276,622.00	75.46	3,705	290,922.00	78.52	3.06	4.1
Broome Parish Council	207	6,300.00	30.43	223	6,930.00	31.08	0.65	2.1
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council	765	34,693.00	45.35	759	36,427.65	47.99	2.64	5.8
Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council	805	34,019.30	42.26	802	48,184.30	60.08	17.82	42.2
Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council	432	4,745.00	10.98	431	5,219.50	12.11	1.13	10.3
Ribbesford Parish	107	0.00	0.00	101	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
Rock Parish Council	1,298	57,650.00	44.48	1,323	61,700.00	46.64	2.16	4.9
Rushock Parish Council	80	3,608.00	45.10	80	3,798.40	47.36	2.26	5.0
Stone Parish Council	298	17,170.00	57.62	294	17,170.00	58.40	0.78	1.4
Stourport on Severn Town Council	7,056	335,866.00	47.60	7,083	400,898.00	56.60	9.00	18.9
Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council	1,988	92,839.60	46.70	2,001	98,119.04	49.04	2.34	5.0
TOTAL/AVERAGE	34,738	1,759,233.90	50.64	34,902	2,011,846.39	57.64		

As can be seen from the above table, the Parish Council have once again kept the Parish Precept (the tax raised on Parishioners) very low again this year, making just an annual increase of only £1.13 per household on last year's parish rate. This still amounts to a spend of just over £1 per month per Band D Property directly for the Parish area, which we hope you will agree is good value for money in helping to make the Parish a good place to live. This has once again been done by careful budget management, resulting in a healthy capital balance, allowing a demand on parish households of less than a quarter of that of most parishes in the District.

Proposed Parish Boundary Changes

Those of you who keep abreast of the Parish Council affairs will be aware that the Parish Council have decided to ask the District Council to consider a Community Governance Review in respect of the Parish Boundary at the housing development site in Low Habberley. If granted, this will, in effect, take out the development site from the Parish of Kidderminster Foreign and put the site into the Kidderminster Town Council area. The new parish boundary will no longer be the Habberley Road, but the bordering hedgerow of the development towards the village of Low Habberley. The Parish Councillors feel that the new housing development would be served better, and have more in common with neighbouring Kidderminster than the village of Low Habberley, and every effort will be given by the Parish Council to try to protect (as they have in the past) the essentially rural nature of Low Habberley village and local area.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

We currently have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you would like to join the Council, and serve in this voluntary role to make Kidderminster Foreign an even better place to live, please complete an application form, which you can obtain from any current Councillor, or by downloading from the Parish Website below.

All applications will be acknowledged and considered, and co-option will be decided upon by existing Parish Councillors,

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. Verbal contributions later in the meeting are at the discretion of the Chair.

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.

Next Meetings (starting at 7.30pm) are: 20th May (AGM), 17th June, and 15th July 2024

Your Current Parish Councillors are :

Mr. C. Holford: Tel: 01299 404678 (Chair)

Mr. C. Grainger : Tel: 01299 212174

Mr. B. Phillips : Tel: 01299 861661

Mrs. R. Norton : Tel: 07916082260

Mr. R. Roberts: Tel: 01299 401048

Mr. S. Leigh: Tel: 07305328817

VACANCY

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.

Holy Trinity Church

Last Autumn members of the church congregation joined with others in the community to plant bulbs around the area. It is delightful to see the daffodils gracing the roadside and especially the Lay By on the way to the Reservoir

Plans are excitedly being put in place for a Coffee and Craft morning on April 20th in the Village Hall 10.15-12 noon. All crafters who would like to donate items or anyone able to donate a cake would be much appreciated. Sue Thompson is the person to contact on 01562 752389 thomsue12@aol.com. All proceeds will be in aid of The Relief Fund.

This year's Photography Competition was launched in March. This is an opportunity for amateur photographers to share their photos of local scenes and events. For further information contact Chris Grainger 07710508558 greygreenfarm@btopenworld.com.

Information on Services and events at Holy Trinity is available at www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-



Easter - Empty Tomb

Upper Arley C of E Primary School

Upper Arley C of E Primary School is the closest school to our parish and recently they had an Ofsted inspection to which the overall assessment was **Good** but the different criteria were as follows

The Quality of Education - Good
Behaviour and Attitudes - Outstanding
Personal Development - Outstanding
Leadership and Management - Good
Early Years Provision - Good

This is a fantastic result for the school, and a credit to the teachers there and to the children who attend. One of the inspectors aptly described it is a '**Small School with a Big Heart**'. Well done to all concerned!



Superfast Broadband in the Parish

The Parish Council are aware of the lack of Superfast Broadband in various, more outlying areas of the Parish, and were indebted to former Parish Councillor Chris Jordan for enabling supply to most properties in Eymore Lane. Some of the more outlying areas in the Eymore area and other parts of the parish do not enjoy the same connectivity, and the scheme which benefited Eymore Lane is no longer available, and instead Superfast Worcestershire are introducing "Project Gigabit" with the aim of connecting properties that are difficult to reach with fibre by the end of 2026/27 across Worcestershire. We will continue pressing for this service to be available to all in the parish as soon as possible. However, progress on this matter is not in our control, as the roll out of the project is in the hands of Superfast Worcestershire in liaison with Open Reach.

Inconsiderate Car Parking

As summer months approach, we are aware of increasing numbers of visitors to our lovely parish. However, this also sometimes brings incidents of inconsiderate parking, both in Low Habberley and at the Reservoir in Trimpley. In respect of Low Habberley, we have asked the Police to give this priority attention, along with speeding cars in our village lanes.

In respect of Trimpley Reservoir, we have been meeting with STWA staff to discuss possible better solutions to cope with the increased visitor numbers and we are still discussing various measures which could possibly be implemented.

Village Hall Events for your diary

20th April—Trimpley Quiz Night with supper
Further information available via the website.

13th July—Summer Barbecue
Time/details t.b.c.
Please support the Hall.
www.trimpleyvillagehall.org



VAS Signage



The Parish Council were recently successful in obtaining Grant Funding from the Police Commissioners Community Fund to allow the purchase of a VA (Vehicle Activated) Solar-powered Speed Sign. After clearance from the County Council for its erection, and also generous provision from the County Council for providing and erecting a suitable pole, this is now in place, and functioning, towards the top of Hoarstone Lane, in the hope that it may calm traffic on approach to the dangerous crossroads.

The Parish Council are indebted to the Police and the County Council for enabling funding to bring this about, but also to Councillor Richard Roberts and his daughter Sue, who voluntarily ensured the sign was erected safely and fully functioning.

VA Sign in Low Habberley—We are also grateful to our Lengthsman Chris Bunn for examining existing signage in Low Habberley and getting this back up and working.

Keeping the village tidy

The Parish Council continue to report incidents of flytipping, which can also be done by individuals themselves on the Wyre Forest DC Website (www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk) - Report It.

We are also indebted to the excellent efforts of our Lengthsman, Mr. C. Bunn, in attending to various highway matters throughout the parish, and keeping our lanes in good order.

Trimpley Green WI Meetings

May 15th

How to make a Terrarium—Talk and Demonstration by Daniel Machin
Work is a four-letter word

June 19th

July 20th

Flowers made with air-drying Paste
Demonstration by Avril Pulley

Meetings are held at 7.30p.m. in Trimpley Village Hall