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STOP PRESS

Allotments

On the 6th January 2012 Telford & Wrekin Borough Council granted permission for planning application TWC/2011/0981: Creation of 25 allotments including sheds, access road, car parking and perimeter fencing. For details of the allotments project and its Committee please contact the Clerk to the Council.

Disabled Access to Longyard Meadow (Station Road)

The Parish Council has agreed to provide a RADAR padlock on the gate at Longyard Meadow to facilitate access for disabled visitors. This will be for a trial period of three months to ascertain whether this measure meets the needs of visitors to the meadow. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Clerk.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Parish Council has successfully obtained funding from the Borough Council's Your Money Your Projects Scheme to assist in the purchase and provision of a seat and the planting of trees to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Funds for the Your Money Your Project Scheme were made available through the Borough Council's Ward Members.

WROCKWARDINE NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter produced by Wrockwardine Parish Council

New Year 2012

Parish Precept maintained at last year's level

Parish Councillors have voted for a zero % increase for Wrockwardine Parish Council Tax Payers – see page three for full details of the Budget and Precept set by the Council.

Don't forget that you can see a record of all the Parish Council's decisions by visiting the web site and perusing the minutes of meetings.

Housing update from Telford & Wrekin Council

Wrockwardine Parish Housing Needs Survey

You may recall that a housing needs survey was carried out in the rural part of Wrockwardine parish in June 2012 by Telford & Wrekin Council, with the support of Wrockwardine Parish Council. This survey was aimed specifically at identifying rural housing needs, therefore the survey forms were sent to households in Wrockwardine village and the surrounding rural villages.

The survey identified 5 households currently living in the rural part of the parish who need affordable housing. Some households indicated a need for affordable housing, however the survey forms were only partially completed and there were no contact details provided. We have therefore not been able to include them in the figures as we do not have all of the information we need to assess their needs.

The survey also showed some potential need for future or "newly forming" households. This refers to people who are currently part of a household but need, or will soon need, their own accommodation. This could apply to adults of any age, but could be, for example, a young person still living at home who will need to set up their own home in the future. Again, we don't have sufficient information about their circumstances to be able to include them in the figures.

The survey was also aimed at finding out if there are any households who are living with another household at the moment but who need their own accommodation as they are overcrowded or sharing facilities. This could be, for example, a family with children living with parents or an older person living with family but who needs their own accommodation.

So if you are in housing need, have a local connection to the rural part of Wrockwardine parish and want to be considered for any new affordable housing for local people built now or in the future, please contact Fiona Stewart on **01952 381145**, email fiona.stewart@telford.gov.uk

All Housing Association homes in Telford & Wrekin are allocated through the Choice Based Lettings Scheme "Choose Your Home" so you must be registered to be considered for a property. To register on the scheme, or for any other enquiries, please call **01952 217 101** email: enquiries@chooseyourhome.org.uk

If you are in urgent need of housing or would like advice or assistance with any other housing issues from the Council – including private housing - please call **01952 381928/381923 or 381874.**



Chairmans Mutterings...

As the first days of the New Year arrive and we say goodbye to what seems to be have been the driest year I can ever remember in 2011, I have the satisfaction of looking back at what has been achieved in the past 12 months here in the Wrockwardine parish, two major pluses are mentioned below.

The long awaited play equipment has finally been installed on the "Park" in Wrockwardine and the village finally has play facilities that meet the needs of the older children, after many years of nothing on site apart from some toddler equipments and the goals! From my peeks over the hedge, the improvements are appreciated! My thanks especially go to Clare Turner from Borough Council for all her hard work, especially in chasing the Contractors after all the early problems that led to the project grinding to a halt for too many weeks. My apologies to all the disappointed young people who did not get their gear for the summer holidays as I had hoped for.

The new Allotments are finally off the drawing board, the plans are submitted and I hope that we will be able to get moving on the building of the fence and getting the ground prepared for the long awaited first planting season. My colleague Cllr Craik has worked long and hard with the Allotment Committee to get us to this stage and I know he is as keen as I to see vegetables growing as soon as possible. I am uncertain on how many plots have been "spoken for" but I am sure the Clerk can help.

The "Elephant in the Room" that we as a Parish Council (PC) will be watching in 2012 will inevitably be the development of the old Allscott Sugar factory site. Thanks to the alertness of one of our Councillors, we had a little prior knowledge of the sudden announcement in the Press that came as a shock to everyone in the area, including the Borough Council! Our Clerk wrote to Northern Trust immediately at my request and made Wrockwardine Parish Council known to them.

The indications are that there will be a consultation in the New Year and I anticipate that the Parish Council will be fully involved from the outset, and that we will shortly give more consideration on how we as a PC will approach the whole process, and also best represent the interests of the community. It may well be that the needs of our community will not coincide with the perceived needs of the Borough Council and we will need to be most vigilant that the already inadequate infrastructure of Wrockwardine Parish is not burdened further by a large scale development on the site. I am hopeful that we will be able to work with the developers and planning authorities and achieve a satisfactory outcome.

The Budget is another hardy perennial of these Newsletters and it is right that this should be the case. Your PC spends a lot of money every year, the vast majority coming from our precept. This year as the detailed figures will show sees another freeze on the precept, but with judicious use of some of our resources, we have in fact increased our spending slightly. However, as one of our Councillors pointed out in our Budget debate, "we cannot keep going to our savings forever". The PC will have to give fresh thought next year at how we maintain our work in the parish and also what responses we should give to the Borough Council to the increasingly loud calls and appeals for the Parishes to fund services previously funded and managed by the Borough as their central Government funding is squeezed. Should the PC increase the precept even in these difficult times to maintain services to the community when Borough expenditure is falling? An argument can be made that this is double taxation, but if the Borough Council will not or cannot provide a service that we as a community feels is important, should the PC look to raise the funds locally and spend them locally?

I would also remind all residents of the parish that we meet once a month through the year apart from August and that all the Council Meetings are open to the public to attend and if they so wish, speak to the council in the Public Session at the start of every meeting. If you want to know more, please contact the Clerk.

Best Wishes to you for 2012.

Steve Rawlings. Cheshire Coppice Farmhouse, Jan 2012

Budget and Precept

At the November meeting of Wrockwardine Parish Council it was resolved to set a precept of £45'000 [Forty Five Thousand Pounds] for the year 2012/13. This represents a zero percent increase on the previous year.

A brief summary and comparison of the budgets set by council is set out below; further details can be obtained upon request from the Clerk to the Council.

	BUDGET 2010/11	BUDGET 2011/12	BUDGET 2012/13
Administration	17,995	19,695	18,050
Cllrs. Travel	0	0	0
Training	0	0	0
Street Lighting	6,000	5,000	5,000
Hall Hire	500	500	250
Fields Maint	8,000	10,000	10,000
Chairman's allowance	600	600	600
Grants (sect 137)	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lighting Refurbishment	0	0	2,500
Parish Maintenance	0	0	500
Playing Fields	0	0	4000
Bus shelter Maint	500	500	500
Parish Magazine	1,000	1,000	1,000
Programmed Community Fund*	4,000	4,000	2,000
Parish Imp	6,000	6,000	6,000
Allotments	0	30,000	10,000
Total	46,095	77,595	61,900

The Council has taken on increased responsibility with two local play grounds and will incur capital expenditure (supported by grant funding) in the provision of allotments. In addition, Council has also agreed to undertake the financial responsibility to maintain the burial ground and church yard in Wrockwardine. The acquisition of additional land and playgrounds will inevitably lead to an increase in grounds maintenance costs.

The Council is aware that many of its residents will have been affected by the present stringent financial conditions and wishes to seek to minimise the effect of its precept. Mindful of its ample reserves Council has taken the view that even though it is moving forward in its provision of increased services, which have inevitable cost implications, it is appropriate to use its reserves to meet cost increases.

Parish Council Meetings

Wrockwardine Parish Council meets at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of every month except August. The venue alternates between Admaston House and Wrockwardine Parish Hall and details can be obtained either by contacting the Clerk or checking the council's web site at wrockwardine.org.uk. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and a public session is always held to allow residents of the parish to address the meeting.

Newsletter Content

Articles published in the newsletter do not necessarily express the views of the Parish Council.