



SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL



Annual Parish Report 2010/11

Parish Councillors for the Year ending 31st March 2011

Ivan Gosden	Parish Council Chairman
Sandy Johnston	Parish Council Vice-chairman and chairman of Leisure Facilities Committee
Alan Ball	
Bruce Batting	Chairman of Planning Committee and responsible for allotments
Ken Clark	Chairman of Burial Ground Committee
John Darker	
Sally Hennessey	
Bruce Jones	Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee
David Leivesley	
Lorraine Smith	

Lucy Marshall resigned as Parish Councillor during the year and John Darker was co-opted onto the Parish Council. Jayne Hawkins resigned as Parish Clerk and Julie Collins took over the role in September 2010. Geraldine House-Barklie resigned as Tree Warden and was replaced by Jane Jordan. All Parish Councillors are trustees of the Village Hall.

Meetings

Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, the parish council held 55 meetings:

Parish Council	11
Finance and General Purposes Committee	8
Leisure Facilities Committee	6
Planning Committee	14
Fete Committee	9
Burial Ground Committee	5
Allotment holders meeting	1
Annual Parish Meeting	1

During the year, the Parish Council has

Roads

- Rented a Speed Limit Reminder Device (SLR) to be moved around the village to reduce speed of traffic (this has been discontinued from 1 January)
- Continued to liaise with Hampshire County Council on traffic calming schemes
- Arranged for the siting of grit bins at key locations
- Reported incidents of flooding to Hampshire County Council
- Reported pot holes to Hampshire Highways

Green

- Monitored safety by receiving a monthly safety report and carrying out an annual inspection
- Installed defences in the form of dragon's teeth and ditches to the Green to prevent unauthorised access

- Treated Golden Pond for New Zealand pygmy weed
- Improved drainage at Jubilee Pond
- Organised grass cutting on the Green and more regular grass cutting of sports grounds and pitches
- Arranged for the felling and removal of dead trees
- Organised pest control treatments to ensure sports clubs have been able to play their matches
- Repaired broken benches on the Green

Allotments

- Installed new composting facilities
- Installed two new water troughs and refurbished the existing troughs and taps
- Organised the replacement of a new stop cock and fixed leaks on water troughs
- Held an annual meeting and collected rental for 58 allotment plots
- Carried out regular inspections of plots
- Held an allotment competition with prizes awarded at the Sherfield Show

Playground / BMX track and Basketball court

- Received weekly safety checks of the play ground and BMX track and an annual risk assessment.
- Arranged for repairs

Tennis Courts

- Organised cleaning and weed killing of the courts

Village Hall

Please note that the Village Hall is a registered charity and, in its capacity as Corporate Trustee, the Parish Council manages this charity via the Village Hall Management Committee.

- Agreed a settlement of the insurance compensation claim concerning the contamination.
- Carried out temporary roof repairs and obtained an estimate for a complete replacement
- Installed gas central heating in cottage #2
- Together with the “Friends”, organized fund raising events including the successful annual Beer Festival
- Carried out regular hall inspections
- Obtained 100% grant for and installed PV Solar Panels
- Set up a computer and TV monitor to display the details of the solar panel electricity generation
- Acting as landlord for Cottage No 2, organized rent collection and repairs
- Prioritized a list of repairs and renovations
- Removed old extractor fan and boarded the blacked out upper windows in the main hall
- Cleared out loft and installed a loft ladder
- Painted some previously unpainted areas
- De-cluttered the pictures on the hall walls
- Installed a gate between the patio and the garden
- replaced rotting planters at front of hall
- recovered and replanted tubs hidden in the undergrowth at side of hall and place them to protect gas installation
- cleared the weeds from garden at the side of the hall and rear of the Liddell Hall

Burial Ground

- Produced regulations and agreed a scale of charges for the new burial ground
- Planted trees
- Seeded the ground with grass and wild flowers
- Plotted the site in readiness for the first burials

Communications

- Maintained the Parish Council website
- Updated the notice boards with Parish Council agendas and other useful information
- Provide a monthly update in Loddon Link
- Sent representatives to external events
- Reviewed and updated its policy documents

General

- Received monthly reports from the local beat officer and neighbourhood watch
- Appointed a new clerk in September 2010
- Appointed a new Tree Warden
- Provided a litter warden and organised cover when litter warden was on leave
- Organised general maintenance of hedges and verges around the Village
- Received approximately seven County and Borough Council documents for consultation.
- Worked with landowners to clear blocked footpaths
- Campaigned for the early provision of the retail units at Sherfield Park

Ongoing/outstanding projects

- Protection and renovation of the Village Hall.
- Continue discussions with Hampshire County Council concerning traffic calming measures
- Finalising defences to the Green
- Continue discussions to secure funding for additional play equipment
- Continue to investigate funding for a new notice board
- Continue to support Country Watch in its opposition to large-scale development in the area

Committee Reports

Planning Committee (14 meetings) Chairman – Bruce Batting

37 applications were considered during the year and 4 objections were lodged by the Parish Council:

- Objection to the erection of a four bedroom dwelling at a site in Reading Road as it is outside of the settlement boundary and has poor access
- Objection to a two storey side extension and conversion of loft to living accommodation at a site in Bow Gardens as it would be an overdevelopment and out of keeping with the surrounding area
- Objection to a change of use of a dwelling to a residential institution in Wildmoor Lane on the grounds of traffic generation and inadequate parking, concerns for highway safety, noise disturbance and loss of amenity for neighbours and lack of adequate enclosure
- Objection to the demolition of a single storey extension and erection of two storey rear and side extensions at a site in Reading Road as it would be an overdevelopment

Finance and General Purposes Committee (8 meetings): Chairman – Lucy Marshall; Bruce Jones from September.

The committee considers quotations, monitors budgetary control and recommends the precept to full council. The precept in 2011/2012 will increase over that for the previous year to £55,000, this is £44.09 for a band D household. It should be noted that in addition to any council tax resulting from the Parish precept there will also be council tax levied in respect of the Borough and County Councils and the Police and Fire Authorities. An unexpected expense in 2010/11 arose from the illegal encampment on the Green and the resulting legal and clearance costs. This reduced the Parish Council's reserves and it has been necessary to bring them back up to the recommended level. As a result of this and the general uncertainty in the economic climate, the committee adopted a prudent approach to budgeting and no major capital schemes are planned for next financial year unless external funding can be found.

Leisure Facilities Committee (6 meetings): Chairman – Sandy Johnston

The committee discusses issues relating to the play area, BMX track, tennis courts, football and cricket grounds/pavilions and allotments. A weekly play equipment inspection is carried out by an external provider and

an annual risk assessment is carried out by an experienced assessor. The committee liaises regularly with the representatives of the cricket and football clubs to ensure issues are addressed. One major issue in the last year was the installation of the Trim Trail which, after much discussion, members had to abandon owing to the prohibitive cost of the extra maintenance required as a condition of receiving grant aid. Efforts will continue to try and secure funding for additional play equipment from developer contributions.

Burial Ground Committee (5 meetings): Chairman – Ken Clark

The committee is responsible for the creation of the new burial ground which is adjacent to the old ground near St Leonard's Church. This year the committee has agreed the layout of the ground, seeded the area and carried out some tree planting. Regulations and a scale of charges have been agreed. More recently, the ground was plotted and is now ready to receive its first burials. Further plans will include a memorial garden and, possibly, additional landscaping as funds permit.

Village Fete Committee (9 meetings): Chairman – Bruce Batting

The Village Fete Committee meets monthly to plan and organise the village Fete which takes place in June each year.

Thank You

The Parish Council is most grateful to the local beat office WPC Mandy Jewell, the Village Green Volunteers, the Friends of the Village Hall, to Phil Cole, the litter warden, who does an excellent job at keeping our village clean and tidy and also to the outgoing tree warden Geraldine House-Barklie who advised on tree work within the Parish, particularly within the Conservation Area. We would also like to say goodbye and thank Lucy Marshall for her service to the Parish Council and Jayne Hawkins for her excellent work as clerk. A warm welcome is extended to new faces: John Darker as a parish councillor, Julie Collins as clerk and Jane Jordan as the tree warden. Members of the WI continue to tend our planters along the Reading Road for which we are very grateful. Thanks, too, must go to our local contractors who we use on a regular basis: Barry and Roy Bulpitt, Mike Barnes, Ben Stoopman, Peter Elliott and Mark Stewart.