

Cannock Wood Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 2012

Thursday 17th May

Chairman's Report 2011-2012

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

The Parish Council has held 10 meetings during the past year with the usual pattern of no meetings in August or December although the July meeting was not quorate with only two councillors present.

It has been quite an interesting year with several matters brought before the council.

The possibility of the need for local elections in 2011 raised concerns about the effect that the cost of an election may have on the finances of the Parish Council as was mentioned in my report last year. Fortunately, as we know, an election was not needed and the outcome was that we received a charge of a mere £45 instead of the possible bill for "£1000's" which we could have received.

As only six people had been nominated to stand for the Parish Council this left a vacancy so two people who had expressed interest in serving on the council were approached and following discussions by members Mr Roger Cowling was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

With future finances in mind the council discussed the need to update our financial arrangements and to implement a strict financial regime for future years. This included putting a sum of money aside each year to build up a reserve for future election costs.

Also during the year it was decided to increase the precept so that the council would be able to give further financial support to the Village Hall and its quest to resurface the car park.

Grant applications were dealt with as usual in November and a total of £1760 was allocated to several local organisations. Financial support was also given to the Village Hall and Beaudesert Playing Fields Trust. We continue to be members of the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association and Staffs Playing Fields Association and have also become corporate members of the Cannock Chase AONB.

All of the parish council meetings are open to the public with the first 15 minutes set aside for visitors to raise any matters of concern. We have been kept informed of the activities of the local police patrols with the reports of PC Luke Norman and PCSO Sean Nicholls although recently due to pressure of work these have not been as regular as we would have liked.

We were once again pleased to welcome to the majority of our meetings County Councillor John Bernard who has continued to give the council much useful information and advice.

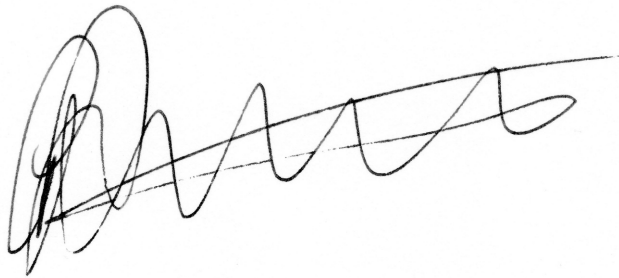
The regular council business has been the consideration of planning applications, financial reports on income and expenditure, reports and discussion on matters such as electricity supply, water pressure, dog fouling, road safety and correspondence and other sundry items affecting village life.

Also among the items discussed were the Best Kept Village competition, we were Highly Commended for the third year running – let's hope that we can do better this time. Our thanks go to Cllr Maureen Allen for her work in organising our entry to this competition.

The Parish Council website continues to attract interest from around the world with hits from many diverse places. The annual maintenance cost for the website is £130.

At our July meeting it was with regret that we heard from Derek Arm, our clerk of many years, that he would be resigning with effect from November 30th. Following discussions a job/person specification was drawn up and applications invited from interested parties. Following the interviewing of three candidates, all of high quality, the council was pleased to offer the position to Ms Naazlin Somani, who is also clerk to Rugeley Town Council, and she took up her position by joining Derek for his last meeting in November. She continues to guide us on the correct course for a Parish Council.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary W Powis', written in a cursive style.

Gary W Powis
Chairman
Cannock Wood Parish Council.

2nd June 2011