

2013/14 Woolavington Annual Report

1) Pavilion/Sports Field

The Woolavington Playing Fields Association met on 4 occasions to deal with the day-to-day management of the pavilion, sports pitch and play areas. The Willow Green Football Club used the pitch for their home games during the 2013/14 season and the Children's Centre also regularly hired the pavilion on Friday mornings. Income amounted to £319.00. The Association replaced a climbing frame at Sedgemoor Way and plan a major refurbishment of the play area at Higher Road in the near future.

2) Flare

Helen Baker assisted by Janine Froud ran Flare (formerly known as the Woolavington Rural Activities Project (WRAP)) The Committee continued to manage the scheme and the Parish Council made a grant of £5,000 to support the work in 2013/14. Fund raising was obtained to support project work.

3) Maintenance Issues

Mr M. Zobel continued to act as voluntary Footpath warden. A number of matters concerning the local rights of way network were taken up.

Repairs were carried out to the play equipment and safety surfacing and also bollards and fences. Various defective road surfaces, street lamps, signs, fly tipping, blocked drains and dog fouling problems were reported.

The Council have continued to campaign, with the assistance of local residents, to achieve effective enforcement of the weight restriction along the B3141. Another lengthy campaign has been to improve highway safety in Higher Road at school times and, following consultation, County Highways have been requested to extend the yellow hatched road markings to cover both sides of the road.

Following concerns about maintenance issues on Woolavington Estate, the Parish Council arranged a special site visit with the District Council's Chief Executive, senior officers of Homes in Sedgemoor and SHAL and the police. Parish Council representatives have been invited to attend regular estate walks and various quick-fix improvements have taken place. Public meetings are now being held with a view to forming an action plan and signing up to a Neighbourhood Agreement to improve the Estate and residents' satisfaction levels.

4) Cemetery

14 burials took place during the year, 3 grave spaces were reserved and 9 memorials were erected. Income in fees amounted to £2,170. The Parish Council also arranged for grass cutting in the Churchyard on behalf of the District Council in return for grant aid. Work took place during 2013/14 to complete the boundary wall along the Reeds Drive frontage of the Cemetery extension.

5) Planning Applications

16 planning applications were considered during 2013/14. The Parish Council's recommendations were forwarded to the District Council. Various concerns regarding planning contraventions were also taken up with the planning officers.

The Parish Council's Planning Working Group of Members met with representatives of BAE Systems to discuss development issues in detail particularly those relating to the proposed Huntspill Energy Park.

Work commenced on the construction of the new doctor's surgery off Crockers Hill in March 2014.

6) Big Local Lottery Funding

The Parish Council received regular updates on Villages Together, an interim working group of residents of both Woolavington and Puriton formed to progress the Big Local Lottery Funding.

7) Garden Competitions

A Best Kept Garden Competition was again organised. The winner of the large garden section was Mrs E. Hopkins of 31 Lower Road. The winners of the senior citizens section were Mr & Mrs M.A. Haggett of 5 Elm Lane. The winners of the small garden section were Mr & Mrs K. Haggett of 3 Lockswell and the award for the best hanging basket went to Mr S. Murr of 14 Orchard Way.

The various flower beds, containers and the planter under the village nameplate at the Causeway were planted with bedding plants and the Millennium Garden was maintained.

8) Citizen of the Year

The twenty-first recipient of the Citizen of the Year Cup was Joan Warren.

9) Allotments

28 of the allotments were let during 2013.

10) Village Hall

The Parish Council assisted the Village Hall Committee with grant aid towards the cost of their general running expenses. The Council also supported the Village Hall Committee with a further grant towards the cost of improvements to the front entrance and purchase of additional tables.

11) Community Right to Build

The Parish Council made an urgent application to Sedgemoor District Council to list the Prince of Wales as an asset of community value. The future of the building as a public house, the last public house in the village, was under threat due to an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for a change of use from a drinking establishment to a convenience store, circumventing the policies of the Sedgemoor Core Strategy. The application had very recently been approved.

12) Web-site

The Parish Council continued to develop and maintain a web-site with information about the work of the Council together with village news items and events.

13) Trees

The Parish Council obtained sponsorship to cover the cost of saplings being planted by volunteers principally in the Sports field.

14) Representation at Meetings

The Parish Council have been represented at Meetings of the Polden Hills Parish Cluster Group, Partners and Communities Together (PACT) and the Somerset Association of Local Councils.