



# PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

[www.penkridgeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.penkridgeparishcouncil.co.uk)



Volume 2 April 2015

## Penkridge Parish Council

### Chairman's Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Chairman Cllr Calvert Stonehouse

We are now coming towards the end of the final year of the current 4 year term for the Parish Council and its members.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May - besides the Parliament election, we have the Parish and District Council elections. I hope there will be new faces on the campaign trail this year!

The last 4 years at the Parish have passed so quickly – the last year has been a 'roller coaster' - for me and the Parish Council.

In May 2014 the Council year started with the planting of the new hanging baskets and troughs for the handrails on Bull Bridge, the area around Crown Bridge and in Clay Street by the Littleton Arms Hotel.

The work of restoration to the War Memorial was completed in time for the National commemorations of the outbreak of World War I – which was held in Penkridge on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014.

In January 2015 the New Year started with emergency repairs necessary to the chimneys on the Haling Dene Centre – these are now complete at much expense.

What else in between – the Parish Administrator retired in September 2014 and the Council decided to carry out a review of the Administration team. This proved to be a long process to ensure the Council was being run efficiently and give best value service to the community.

Meanwhile there have been lots of events at the Haling Dene, including the very successful 'Lets Celebrate Penkridge', the Wedding Fayre as well as the Church Fete, the Band Concerts, the Fun Run, the Pantomime to name but a few.

The Haling Dene Centre is used by many groups as a Community Centre - whilst the rooms have also been hired by many organisations and families for special occasions including weddings and parties.

Staff House – the Caretaker retired at the beginning of 2014 – the house is to be retained but leased out to ensure full use of the valuable asset to the Parish Council.

The Council continues to support local organisations with the consideration of Grants in accordance with the Council's Grant Awards Policy. The Council's aim is to distribute grants in a way that is fair and accountable to enable many groups to benefit.

The Council are also now looking for this year's Civic Award and Young Persons Civic Award.

The Best Kept Village competition is continuing - and the Council wish to see the village look its best again this year - hopefully to win an award for the efforts of the whole Community.

Planning Issues – the Parish continues to comment, support, or voice concerns to South Staffordshire Council in the Consultation process. There are several projects around the village - either complete, for example the Pencric Development of residential apartments for the Elderly - or in the process of construction, such as the new Fire Station. There are still many planning matters awaiting decision/under consultation such as the proposed Housing on Lyne Hill, redevelopment of Riverside House [Elderly accommodation] and the outcome of the unauthorised Gypsy occupation of the Green Belt Land to the South of the Village at the side of the A449.

The speed limit of 30mph through the village was welcomed by the Council; however the issue of additional signage is a continuing dialogue with the Staffordshire County Council Highway Authority.

Each month we have been grateful to Reverend Sheila Finn for leading prayers prior to the Full Council meetings and PCSO Andy Poxon and his colleagues for presenting useful police reports and of course to his continued presence in and around the Village.

The Council now have a new Admin team led by Lesley Griffiths the new Parish Administrator, with Debbie Turton, and Ann Raby – we hope that the best possible service continues to be provided by the Parish Council to the local community. We also have an excellent support team to help maintain the Haling Dene Centre and all the Council's facilities and amenities throughout the Parish. We sadly say good bye to Hilary Hancox the Council's Deputy Caretaker as she retires on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

There have been 3 Councillors who have left during the last year and 1 co-opted replacement. With the best efforts of the staff and all concerned, the Council has continued to undertake its statutory tasks and duties, and provide the service to the community.

Financial resources have been used responsibly and as a result this continues with the Precept remaining unchanged at £210,000 for the next financial year – 2015/2016.

I would like to mention and thank the Sub Committee members for both the Recreation and Amenities and Haling Dene Management Committees. Indeed all Councillors are thanked for their contributions over the past year.

The development of the new Website and social media continues by the Website group.

The Highways Liaison group continues the dialogue on highways and safety matters with the Highway Authority.

I finish by offering everyone involved with the Parish Council and the local community – best wishes for the forthcoming year and the future.

Regards

*Calvert Stonehouse*

Chairman Parish Council

19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## **Room Hire Haling Dene Centre** **No Price Increase 2015-16**

There will be no price increase for Room Hire at the Haling Dene Centre for 2015-16.

See our website [www.penkridgeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.penkridgeparishcouncil.co.uk) for a current price list for Meetings, Parties, Weddings etc. You can either enquire using a link from the website or give us a call and we will be happy to discuss your requirements further on [01785] 714157.

## **Vacant Allotments**

We now have vacancies on both our allotment sites at Francis Green Lane and Wolgarston Way. Plots are £30 per Full Plot and £15.00 per Half Plot.

If you are a budding gardener and want to start growing your own Fruit and Vegetables or want a hobby where you can involve the whole family phone the Haling Dene Centre for further information on [01785] 714157.

## **Best Kept Village 2015**



Penkridge is again entered in the Best Kept Village competition and the organisers are appealing to local residents to help keep the village looking at its best and hopefully gain some success in this year's contest. If you can help in any way towards this end, maybe by monitoring your own road/street to ensure it is looking its best, or maybe assist with litter-picking (gloves, etc. are provided) – in fact, helping in any way to keep your village looking really good for when the judges come visiting, then do please contact David Calcroft on 01785 713558. Your help would be very much appreciated and, who knows, we may see that coveted BKV trophy back in Penkridge once more.

## **Kier - Penkridge Fire Station**

Kier Construction is very pleased to have been selected as the contractor for eleven new community fire stations in the Stoke and Staffordshire area one of which is Penkridge Community Fire Station which is due to be completed in August 2015.

We have erected a temporary fire station, demolished the previous station and now building the external walls. In the next two weeks Kier will be constructing the 1st floor slab, erecting steelwork and beginning the installation of the mechanical and emergency services.

We will make every effort to minimise the impact of this work and would like to thank you in advance for your Patience. Should you wish to discuss any issues with us please do not hesitate to contact our site manager Dave Johnston (07584 346 756).

## **PENKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

Lesley Griffiths - tel: 01785 714157

e-mail: [clerk@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@penkpc.co.uk)

### **PARISH COUNCILLORS - CONTACT INFO**

#### **Gailey Ward**

Mr A Minshall - 07976 816407

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#### **North East Ward**

Mr B Craddock - 01785 712733

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Mr J L Eastwood - 01785 712966

email: [j.eastwood@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:j.eastwood@penkpc.co.uk)

#### **South East Ward**

Mr S J Flynn - 01785 336309

email: [s.flynn@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:s.flynn@penkpc.co.uk)

Mrs A J Geoghegan (Vice-Chairman) - 01785 713419

email: [a.geoghegan@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:a.geoghegan@penkpc.co.uk)

Mr G Hawkins - 01785 714057

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Mrs P Hughes - 01785 714843

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Mr V Kelly - 01785 716779

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Mrs V Smith - 01785 714129

email: [v.smith@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:v.smith@penkpc.co.uk)

#### **West Ward**

Mrs I G A Ford - 01785 712339

email: [i.ford@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:i.ford@penkpc.co.uk)

Mr P M Jones - 01785 713227

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Mr D Oldfield - 01785 714373

email: [d.oldfield@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:d.oldfield@penkpc.co.uk)

Mr C Stonehouse (Chairman) - 01785 713009

email: [c.stonehouse@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:c.stonehouse@penkpc.co.uk)

### **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

#### **North East & Acton Trussell Ward**

Mr L Bates - 01785 714091

Mrs I G A Ford - 01785 712339

#### **South East Ward**

Mrs C J Raven - 01785 715936

Mr J Raven - 01785 715936

#### **West Ward**

Mr D E Cartwright - 01785 712487

### **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr D Williams - 01922 511319

#### **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Mr J Lefroy - 01785 252477

*For contact information for all above*

*tel: 01785 714157 or see website.*

**Parish Council Meetings** are held at 7.30 pm in

Room 1, Haling Dene Centre every second

Thursday of the month except August

#### **Office Contact**

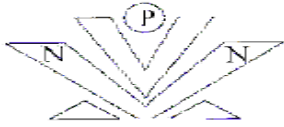
Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road, Penkridge.

ST19 5DT

Opening times 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm

(Monday - Friday)

Tel: 01785 714157 or e-mail: [reception@penkpc.co.uk](mailto:reception@penkpc.co.uk)



## PENKRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK

Our aim is to bring together Penkridge residents, the Police and various organisations to work together to address issues in the Village.

The PNN is a local action group that has worked with other agencies to resolve issues and has achieved success with the following schemes:

- No-drinking zones
- Extra car parking at the station
- An Active youth group at the Leisure Centre
- Action on littering around pubs
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Road Safety

Our meetings are held at the Haling Dene Centre every 6 weeks. Come along to our meetings and have your say. We are always looking for new ideas and new faces to make Penkridge a better place to live.

**Meeting Dates 2015: 20 Apr, 11 May, 22 June, 24 Aug, 5 Oct, 16 Nov**

**Contact details:-**

**Gordon Files - 01785 712665 - gordonfiles@btinternet.com**

**Barry Chisnall - 01785 714268 - barry.chisnall@yahoo.com**

**Calvert Stonehouse - 01785 713009 - calstonehouse6@aol.com**

### DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE AN EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO VILLAGE LIFE?

#### JUNIOR CIVIC AWARD 2015

If you know a young person who is under 21 and who has demonstrated commitment to, or benefit for, the community and you think he/she deserves recognition please fill in the slip below and return it to the Parish Administrator. The closing date is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

(You may attach additional information)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Parish Administrator's Office by not later than Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

#### CIVIC AWARD 2015

If you know a parishioner who has contributed to the village community and would like to nominate him/her to be considered for this year's Civic Award please fill in the slip below and return it to the Parish Administrator. The closing date is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

(You may attach additional information)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Parish Administrator's Office by not later than Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.