

MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN MEETING OF PEMBRIDGE PARISH 2010

Held Wednesday 5th May, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. G. Evans	Chairman	Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. R. Phillips	Ward Cllr.	Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. J. Purslow		Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith
Cllr. K. Duggan		Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. K. Myers		Cllr. P. Rogers
Cllr. D. Owens		Mr. C. Buchanan – Parish Warden
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd		Mr. J. Higginson – CAP Chairman
		Ms. K. Finney – School Headteacher
		Mr. G. Whiting – Editor Parish Magazine
		Mrs. J. Boyles – Re new Kington Surgery
		+ 2 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies**
Cllr. C. Buchan
2. **Minutes of the last meeting & Matters arising from them – 5th May 2010**
Were approved. No matters arising.
3. **Parish Council Chairman's Report – Cllr. G. Evans**

This year the Council has held ten ordinary meetings and a number of special meetings. Some councillors have also attended sub-committee meetings and represented Pembridge on outside bodies including the "Shobdon Noise Abatement Group". The Parish Council meets every month (other than August and December) and a notice and agenda are always posted on the Parish Council notice board at least three days before each meeting. Members of the Parish are more than welcome to attend and while they may not take part in any debate, there is always session for Parishioners to comment or ask questions.

The activities of the Council place a heavy workload on our Parish clerk, Mrs Heather Harding and I thank her for her support and for all of the work that she has done this year.

In the year to the 31st March, 2011 the Council set a precept of £18,000 and details of the income and expenditure figures will appear on the Council website once the external audit has been completed. For the year to the 31st March, 2012, the Council has held the precept at £18,000 and more detail can be found on the website. The 2012 precept figure is once again lower than the anticipated spending for the year and any deficit will be met by reducing the reserves held.

I am pleased to confirm that Mr Keith Douglas has agreed to continue his appointment as internal auditor and to audit the accounts before they are presented to the external auditors. This is an honorary post and the Council is very grateful that Mr Douglas is continuing.

This year there have been developments in a number of areas, some of which will be reported on later. The project to upgrade the street lighting has been completed and has generally been met with approval. We have continued to pursue the need for the provision of affordable housing for Pembridge and in the last couple of months have received some positive feedback from Marches Housing Association. Let us all hope that this is not another false dawn for a project that has been in the pipeline for a number of years.

The Parish Plan has undergone a complete review and has been updated. The Council standing orders (the rules governing the conduct of the Council) have been reviewed and updated and the Council has continued to contribute to the Herefordshire Council's "Shaping our place 2026" initiative.

We have sought to build closer links with the local community and to make meetings more interesting – sadly with little impact on attendance by the general public. We have developed closer ties with the local police, who regularly attend and report to the Parish Council. We have given our support to the Good Neighbourhood Scheme, to Pembridge in Bloom and to the Arrowvale Environment Group. Although, regrettably in the case of the latter, we were not able to identify any land suitable for the provision of allotments. The Parish Council is pleased to continue its support of Pembridge School and regular the installation of a "Speed Indicator Device" at the western entrance to the village does appear to be having some impact on the speed of traffic travelling along the main street.

The future promises further increases on the workload of the Parish Council. On the 13th December last year, the government published the Localism Bill and there has been much talk of community empowerment. The Bill aims to shift power from central government back into the hands of the communities and could well result in the Parish Council having responsibility for the provision of an increasing number of local services.

This seems an appropriate time to remind everyone to follow the work of the Parish Council by visiting the website at www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk where the minutes of meetings are posted on the site for all to see. A visit to the site will also enable Parishioners to sign up to our email service whereby the agenda for all upcoming meetings will automatically be sent to you.

Finally, a further round of thanks. Thanks are due to the volunteers who help to keep the Parish running smoothly, to the teams of parishioners who involve themselves in the erection of Christmas trees and lights and in street clean-ups. Thanks to Tony Norman who continues as tree warden and importantly, as our flood warden; a vital service that benefits from his deep knowledge of the river and surrounding area. Thanks also to Glyn Whiting, our volunteer editor of Pembridge Parish News.

My personal thanks go to the vice-chairman, Ken Myers for his support throughout the year, to Bob Pierce for administering the PC website and to all of my fellow Councillors who put in untold hours of work for no reward. The amount of time that they give and their dedication to the local community almost always goes unnoticed by those they serve.

4. Parish Matters to be raised by Pembridge Electors

None.

5. Police Report

During the past twelve months there has been 21 crimes reported – a very low figure. The Police continue to work closely with the parish council in responding to any problems that arise, as well as the Neighbourhood Watch team.

There will be a stand at this year's village show.

The recent Police 'surgeries' in Pembridge have been successful and two more dates for these will be set. The meetings occur at the Market Hall.

6. Report on progress of new Kington Surgery – Mrs. Boyles

Mrs. Boyles explained that she represents the Patient Participation Group in Kington as a volunteer and how she primarily liaises between patients and administrative and medical staff. There are similar groups run in Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye.

Her group also helps to decide how fund-donated money from patients should be spent; and staff are able to request pieces of equipment also.

Plans of the proposed new surgery have been made available. A planning application combining a public access footpath and road crossing and 52 parking spaces, has been submitted for consideration; however there have been some legal delays in processing the application, and it is hoped that these matters will soon be resolved. The money for the surgery is in place but has not been released just yet.

The new Medical Surgery would encompass:-

An NHS dental service – a Ludlow dentist has already been secured, if 2,000 signatories apply.
Day case area for monitoring of patients.
A mobile hook-up for X ray, Scanners and Mammography.
Rooms for district nurses and midwives etc.
More clinical staff.
Modern staff facilities.
A large dispensary.
A prescription collection and delivery service.
Full disabled access with ramp.
A lift to the second floor.
Funding for a patient transport service.
An ambulance bay.
Rooms for consultants.

The aim is to improve all aspects of healthcare.

There is also a drop-in surgery being held on Saturdays at Kington Court between 9am and 1pm, which is run by 'Prime Care', which anyone may attend.

Joy then confirmed about Pembridge surgery, and that the Prime Care Trust has secured services in Pembridge for a further 30 years, as it is the general wish that Pembridge should continue to have a surgery of its own. The surgery is owned by the partners.

If anyone has any queries they may contact Joy Boyles on Tel: 01544 388145.

7. Pembridge School Report – Headmistress – Miss Finney

The school has had a very successful year since the last Parish Open Meeting.

The number of pupils on roll has now increased to 104 children.

The school had an Ofsted inspection in May 2010. The outcome of this was that the school was judged to be a good school with some outstanding features. An extract from the full report reads:

“Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding because of the high emphasis the school places upon it and because of the open and welcoming ethosgood teaching and effective use of assessment leads to pupils good progress....there are very strong relationships between children and staff, an excellent ethos and good team working”.

The Ofsted inspection was followed by the statutory inspection of Anglican Schools S48. The school was judged to be outstanding in all four sections of the church school report. The Inspector commented:

“Pembridge is an outstanding church school, not only for its vision and what it achieves, but also because it is continually looking for ways to improve further. Christian values permeate all aspects of school life. The school is united, well-led and combines high all round achievement with excellent opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.”

In May 2010 Kerri Finney, Head teacher, took part in a British Council project Connecting Classrooms, to visit the Henan province of China. The visit with 10 other local Head teachers was to establish educational links between the two regions. Pembridge was linked with the Wen Chang Primary School in the city of Kaifeng which has approximately 4 million inhabitants. Pembridge will host a return visit from the Chinese Head teachers in October 2011.

The final phase of recent building work was completed in the late Autumn of 2010. This work saw the building of a new link corridor to join together the Victorian school building and the newly remodelled buildings.

The project also provided new lighting for the external path, fitted cupboards and work surfaces and a new dishwasher for the kitchen.

The children achieved the best results of the last several years in their end of Key Stage 2 SAT's with 100% of the cohort achieving Level 4 in English and Maths.

The school entered the Heart of England in Bloom awards, alongside the village entry, and was awarded a Silver Gilt award for the school grounds. The new school pond, named "Pembridge Paradise" by the children, has proved to be a great success. The project was funded through a Kingspan initiative. Mrs. Catherine Janson, a parent, co-ordinated the project and continues to work very hard with the children on maintaining the pond area, as well as tending the thriving school kitchen garden.

The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the year; some highlights being the summer production of Alice in Wonderland, visits to the theatre in Birmingham and Malvern, ice skating in Hereford, a Royal Wedding celebration, Pembridge has got Talent show, whole school topic on castles and dragons, Tag Rugby festival, Mitchel Hamer football and netball competitions, Year 6 overnight visit to London and many more.

The school has also been involved in many community events such as participating in the consultation about the future use of the church buildings, singing in the Arrowvale Concert as part of Shobdon Food Festival, making a guy for the village bonfire, joining the Parish Remembrance Day service, taking part in the annual "switch on" of the Pembridge Christmas lights and singing carols at Lynhales Nursing Home.

The school also continues to have a very active PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association) who do an excellent job of fundraising to help support the work of the school. Most recently they gave each pupil a commemorative gift to celebrate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

8. Parish Warden Report – Mr. Chris Buchan (Sherriff)

Again, due to the prolonged cold winter, fortunately the crime rate in the parish remains low. There were a few incidents which were reported in the 'West Mercia Police Bulletin' - that of the Theft of diesel and heating oil.

I am still waiting for my request for a salt/grit container to be placed by the entrance to Manley Lane, which is needed due to ice forming on the main road (A44) which is extremely dangerous.

The Speed Indicator Device from the Kington direction on the A44 is still proving to be a deterrent to vehicle speeding through the village - I have personally witnessed this (whilst gardening) slowing down.

The monthly Police surgeries, which are a good opportunity to meet local residents on a one-to-one basis, and for residents to get to know their local policing team, are progressing well.

We still have our quarterly 'Neighbourhood Watch' meetings to discuss incidents from the West Mercia Police weekly bulletins and e mails, and any other business which pertains to the parish. The last one was held on Tuesday 17th May 2011 and the next one is on Tuesday 6th September 2011 at the New Inn. PC Jo Ellis and CSO Dick Allford continue to give us excellent support by attending these meetings.

As from the 'Pembridge Parish News' all systems are go for the Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme, which is being organised by Mrs. Pat Stokes.

9. Village Green Report – Cllr. Ken Myers

The main green has required little maintenance other than the regular grass cutting and annual mow with the exception of the removal of a large limb that unexpectedly broke off a tree by the river.

The conservation area is being tended by the management team, whose active members comprise Tony Norman, Bob Pierce, Adrian Lomax and myself. This involves keeping the path clear and mowing the edges adjacent to the path.

We would point out that the intention is to maintain the conservation area in as natural state as possible rather than produce a manicured version of nature. We feel such an approach will encourage the establishment of the indigenous flora and fauna.

10. Amenity Trust Report – Cllr. G. Evans

The last year has been a quiet one with no major projects currently underway. Nonetheless, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their input and support throughout the year. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs. Wendy Douglas who is honorary treasurer of the Trust and Mrs. Jen Myers who is honorary secretary.

In July last year, following a long period of ill health, Alan Bramwell resigned from the Trust and has now moved away to be closer to his family. Alan was a stalwart of the Trust and was instrumental in many projects. He was the driving force behind the excavation of the moat and mound and made a huge contribution towards the production of the report entitled The History and Heritage of Pembridge. The project really began with the clearance of the moat and mound in millennium year and then took over his life for the next four years until the final report was published in March 2005. Until his health deteriorated, Alan was always willing to help in any way he could and he is missed by us all. The resignation does mean that there is a vacancy for a Trustee, so anyone who is interested in local history and would like to become involved is more than welcome to contact either myself or Jen Myers.

Market Hall

An inspection of the building was carried out at the end of May 2010, as required by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the main providers of cash for the project. The report identified a few areas requiring attention in the next 12 months, the most significant being the cutting back and replacing of the lime mortar on the south west hip and north ridge of the roof.

The Market Hall is a community building and it has been used more extensively as such since the addition of lighting in 2005. It was anticipated that this would be the case and with the advent of anti-smoking legislation, it is often used as a smokers' shelter by patrons of the New Inn. As a consequence, some areas of the floor have become loose and pitted and it is intended that the loose material should be removed as and when necessary.

The only remaining planned work relates to the cobbles installed to catch the rainwater runoff. These are set in traditional lime mortar, which is not a very durable material and within the next 5 years, they will have to be re-pointed.

Car Park & Toilets

The lease of the car park and toilets from Herefordshire Council is scheduled to run for another 14 years, with an expiry date of the 15th March, 2025. The running costs of the car park and toilets are underwritten by the Parish Council but by holding the lease in the name of the Trust, business rates that would be payable are avoided.

The operation of toilets and car park has been relatively trouble free, although it has been necessary to adjust slightly the area in the car park used by the mobile Post Office van. Over the last few years, it has been pleasing to receive a number of compliments on the condition of toilets and many were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden untimely death of our cleaner Mr Mervyn Powell. Mervyn always took pride in his work and will be a hard act to follow but we are pleased to report that an able person has been found to take on his duties.

Millennium Meadow

The Millennium Meadow is owned by the Amenity Trust for the benefit of the people of Pembridge and any changes to it must be approved by the trustees. The development of the Meadow has been delegated to a group, currently chaired by Mrs Julie Mifflin, who has gathered around her an enthusiastic group of people. Anyone wishing to know more about developments on the Meadow should contact Mrs Mifflin.

Bell Tower

Other than some minor repairs, there is nothing to report. Our continued thanks go to Mr. Klein, who undertakes the regular task of winding the clock.

11. Parish Footpath Officer's Report – Cllr. P. Rogers (Read by Cllr. G. Evans)

There are 47 km of footpaths in Pembridge Parish. I have not yet walked all of them !

I have responded to concerns from parishioners and tourists re blocked paths, broken stiles and gates and a horse in a field. If I have the contact details of the complainant I have responded directly to them as to what action will be taken.

To date :

- 3 new kissing gates have been delivered to Broxwood to replace broken stiles
- 2 ditch crossings are to be replaced at Broxwood
- An overplanted footpath on the Broxwood Estate will be kept clear next year
- A fingerpost has been installed wher PM56 leaves the highway
- A dangerous bridge west of Byletts Cottage has been closed for 6 months for repair- Amey weer unable to complete the repair within two 21-day closure notice periods due to bad weather
- A new gate and gate posts have been ordered for the entrance to the footpath beginning at Byletts Cottage
- A work order has been issued for a ditch/stream crossing on Footpath PM16 north of Marston where there had not been one previously, and for clearance of a track leading to it from the highway north of Marston between lad at Upper Marston Farm and Marston Court. This track has been placed on Amey's strimming list for next year
- Footpath PM52 is blocked by crop and a letter requesting its clearance was sent by the Area Rights of Way Warden on November 22nd. This was not acceded to and the matter has been passed to the Enforcement Officer for process
- 2 new footpath 'chevrons' have been replaced for those which were mysteriously removed from Pembridge Bridge.
- PM10 north of Marston has been blocked by new fencing – I need to speak with the landowner regarding this matter.

I have also walked and reported on the upcoming W.I. walk in June.

12. Pembridge Parish Magazine Editor's Report – Mr. Glyn Whiting

The magazine continues to be a popular communication tool for the council and the best way to get information to the wider parish community. Contributions from the public continue to be a stumbling block with people being very reticent to send in letters or information. However, for those who have sent items in, a big thank you as it all adds to variation in the magazine. This year I have started to include small articles from the school newsletter and from next month we intend to have a small space for 'notes from the chairman' where Garfield will keep us informed of all the exciting plans the council have coming up.

I will continue printing of the magazine when I am in the UK. Costs are not expected to rise in the foreseeable future.

I try to encourage people to send in items for publication but it has proved to be an uphill struggle. Letters would be great, the more contentious the better !

Please send in any items, particularly historical ones, and I will try to put as many in as possible. Also, any events that are planned need to be e mailed to me in plenty of time to plan their inclusion; this really means 2 months notice to be sure. So, as an example, the main show information needs to go in the June magazine, so I will need it by 15th May.

When sending event promotions or reports, please send more rather than less. I can edit out things that won't fit but I can't make up things that aren't there. After all, this isn't the News of the World.

Any suggestions for changing and improving the magazine will always be gratefully received.

13. Pembridge Almshouses & Charities Report – PC Representative: Cllr. D. Owens

Registered Charity Number 216294

This report relates to the period 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2010.

Official Address and Contact details:

Jubilee Cottage, Upper Hardwick, Pembridge, Leominster, Herefordshire. HR6 9HE
Tel: 01544 388486 E mail: pembridgecharities@live.co.uk

Charity Trustees:

Mrs. A.M. Reid	Mrs. B. Norman	Rev. J. Read
Mrs. C.M. Price	Mr. D.T. Owens	Dr. D.J.O. Griffith
Mr. R. Smith	Mr. R.S. Gwilliam	

Clerk: Mr. M.J. Coleburn

Financial Information:

Outgoings include payments to:

EMS for carrying out an asbestos survey: £1,468

AON annual liability insurance: £1,076

T.A. Matthews for Land Registration: £1,596

Also, a large donation was made to the School from funds from the Carpenter Bengough Charity.

Property Registration:

During the year, all land and properties belonging to the charity were registered with the UK Land Registry.

Almshouses:

During the year, all almshouses were checked for the presence of asbestos by Environmental Management Services Ltd. – no asbestos found in the construction of the houses.

Charges:

Weekly maintenance charges throughout the year were £19.50 per week for single bedroomed properties and £32.00 per week for two bedroomed properties.

Occupation:

All houses were occupied until mid August when Alan Bramwell vacated to be nearer his family in Manchester, leaving No.4 Duppa Cottages vacant. During October Mr. Davies died leaving No.1 Duppa Cottages vacant and during December Mrs. Phibben vacated No.2 Trafford Cottages to live in purpose built accommodation in Leominster. Numbers 1 and 4 Duppa Cottages have new residents and number 2 Trafford Cottages remains vacant.

Report prepared by M.J. Coleburn (Clerk to the Pembridge United Charities Trustees)

14. Parish Plan Review Report – Mr. K. Duggan

In late 2007 a sub-committee from the Parish Council were asked to review the 2002 Parish Plan.

After much discussion with various officers from Herefordshire Council the Parish Council decided against the idea of creating a completely new plan from scratch as the basis of the 2002 Plan was mostly still current, i.e. the history, geography, description etc. There was very little money available, which would probably mean substantial funding coming from the Parish Council unless a grant was secured.

With this in mind the sub-committee went away and looked at each section of the original Parish Plan under close scrutiny and took out what was no longer relevant to the parish today. You would be surprised how much the village has changed in 10 years, for example, we no longer have:

Tourist Information Office

Post Office

The Hairdressers

And more recently the Village Shop (which apparently has been sold and will reopen sometime in the near future ?)

We have, however, gained:

Townsend Caravan Park and Farm Shop

Kings House Restaurant

The new Conservation Area on the village green (just over the bridge)

A Lengthsman Scheme

Doorstop recycling / waste collection

We have made recommendations on how to move forward with the Parish Plan with a quite detailed Action Plan after holding an Open Meeting with the Parish where a presentation was made with an opportunity for the parishioners to ask questions. A final presentation was made to the Parish Council, after which it was handed over to the Parish Council to make available in the near future.

15. Parish Council Website Report – Cllr. R. Pierce

Site address: www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visits to the site continue to number no more than one or two per day. Although the total number of visits each month averages about 340, only 7% of these visits can be identified as originating within the UK. Most visits will be automated trawls by robot software trying to find email addresses for spam use rather than visits by a human.

The site currently provides access to council minutes going back to January 2007, details of how the precept is allocated and also includes the Pembridge Parish News going back to the January 2007 edition. The site also gives the Pembridge surgery opening times and emergency contact details, times for the mobile Post Office service and a link to the local bus timetables on the Herefordshire website.

This year we've added the facility for visitors to the site to register to receive agendas in advance by email for each Council meeting. As this involves the Council holding data about individuals we were required to register with the Information Commissioner's Office. There is no restriction on the website about who can sign up for agendas but we have not been overwhelmed by overseas requests. Eight people have signed up since last September.

Lengthsman Scheme – Cllr. K. Myers (Read by Cllr. A. Stokes)

In 2010/11 the Lengthsman has been principally engaged in carrying out work identified in a survey commissioned the previous year. The work has mainly involved providing better drainage on roads throughout the parish by cutting grips, clearing culverts, emptying gullies with some limited ditch clearance. In addition road signs were cleaned and some road gutters were cleared in the village.

The cost was £2989 which was fully covered by the grant from HCC.

The scheme's administrator for the parish is Dan Wenczek and the councillors who manage it are Alan Stokes and myself.

16. Good Neighbour Scheme – Mrs. P. Stokes

The Scheme will be launched on 1st June 2011. We have been successful in getting funding from the Parish Council, Pembridge Art Market, Lynhales Nursing Home and a Herefordshire Council Community Pride Grant.

The scheme has 11 volunteers ready to help, and leaflets and posters advising people about the service will be circulated within the Parish via the Pembridge News magazine, doctors surgery and all community boards throughout the Parish.

This will be a free service supporting people in the community and our volunteers will be happy to visit anyone who needs help, particularly people who are elderly, disabled isolated or single parents. A few examples of how the scheme might help are:

- Fetching prescriptions and library books
- Shopping and doing errands
- Practical tasks at home, e.g. changing a light bulb
- Help[with forms or letters
- Walking or feeding pets
- Giving information about other services which people might need
- Occasional light gardening work
- Regularly calling in for a chat

All volunteers will be C.R.B. checked and will carry identity cards.

To arrange a volunteer to visit, the mobile 'phone number will be available between the hours of 9.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. It is : **07779 122499**. There will be a messaging service.

17. Pembridge 'In Bloom Report – Cllr. A. Stokes

I have completed the application for a visit by RHS inspectors – date not yet confirmed but two possible dates in July are 26th or 27th.

The fee (£50) was paid by Hereford and Wye Valley in Bloom, an umbrella organisation which co-ordinates activities across Herefordshire. By participating in this group will entitle us to some funding later in the year. Hopefully around £400.

There is a lot to do if we are to improve on last years' Silver award, but there seems little interest so far. Partly my fault in getting the date wrong in the Pembridge News.

Hopefully people will show up tomorrow night in the New Inn to express interest in volunteering to help.

I will organise a litter pick closer to the date, but jobs like painting and cleaning street furniture, notice boards, help with planting and tidying where required all need to be done.

I need a committee to arrange things like deciding the route or sites to see, meeting and greeting, escorting on the day etc.

Bob Anderson has agreed to help with the portfolio, for which I am extremely grateful, his expertise in this area is invaluable.

There has been a suggestion from a parishioner to hold an Open Garden Scheme in the Parish but no detail was discussed, and I am not sure whether this is an alternative to P.I.B. or to supplement the scheme as a community event. Julie Mifflin has notified you in the Pembridge News of the hanging basket competition.

Please if you feel you can help in any way, give me a call or come to the New Inn tomorrow night (12th May 2011). The decision to go ahead this year will be based on the level of interest expressed and the number of volunteers available.

With the experience gained from last year we can improve on the grade to an even higher level.

18. Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips

Can I thank all those residents who supported me earlier this month and returned me as your elected representative on Herefordshire Council. I look forward to attending Parish council meetings and parish events in the ward and helping community and individual concerns.

The Council has agreed a budget in March to make the 10.3 million pounds of government savings in 2011/12 and will need to address a further cut in budgets of over 6 million in 2012/13. The bulk of these savings will come changes in administration of services and include a reduction of Full time staff by 14% with a cut in managers of 25%.

We have been working in close partnership with NHS Herefordshire since September 2007, and the benefits of this more integrated approach can now be seen.

Not only are we better placed than many to manage our way through these leaner times, we are beginning to see the implementation of significant changes that will deliver real improvements to the health & wellbeing outcomes for the people of Herefordshire. Provision of hospital, community health and adult social care services across the county are being brought together within a single integrated care organisation. This will enable the delivery of targeted services through improved care pathways by integrated locality-based teams – in other words, ensuring that the right people get the right care, in the right place, and at the right time.

A further element of change has been the selection of 2gether NHS Foundation Trust to modernise and deliver mental health and learning disability services for the people of Herefordshire.

We have, again with our health partners, agreed an overarching shared services programme to deliver shared back office support services, including the establishment of a joint venture company. Once fully implemented, we expect the shared services programme to be capable of delivering £4.3m savings per annum, and approximately £1.02m of these savings have already been delivered.

Given the advanced joint working the council will be monitoring and moving on the new changes to Health services ensuring local GPs work together to protect our County services and Hospitals.

The Council will be monitoring the proposals from the new Localities Bill and its impact on local communities. Any house building in the County will need to be done in consultation with the Parish Councils and local communities recognising the County and local infrastructure needs.

Many schools are considering to go for Academy status including Lady Hawkins and the Council will work with all schools on this agenda. During the year the school was given a status of being a good school with outstanding features by Ofsted. The local primary schools of Kington, Pembridge, Almeley and Eardisley together with Lady Hawkins have formed a soft federation to work together to support each other in improving education standards, reducing costs and ensuring the future of each school.

This winter we suffered the worst weather the county has seen in years. Amey's gritting teams gritted 44,000 miles of road in the 2010/11 winter season to the end of 2010 compared with 23,000 miles in the equivalent period of the 2009/10 season; FOCSA, our waste collection partners missed only two days of collection during the whole period; and tribute must be paid to the many other workers, in the council and in the wider county who managed not only to get into work, but to reach vulnerable residents in often inaccessible areas, to ensure they were not left without access to services. Once again the extreme weather conditions have taken their toll not only in terms of the costs of the additional gritting runs needed, but in the aftermath of potholes that will require attention. Government have given us an extra 2.5 million pounds to help with potholes.

Having mentioned waste collection, it is pleasing to see that, following the introduction of the wheelie bin recycling facility in the current year we expect to collect an estimated 16,800 tones of waste for recycling from households through the fortnightly collection; some 97% of the county's households have this service.

Securing future economic growth and prosperity for our county has remained a constant priority throughout the period of our administration. The linkages a prosperous local economy and the health and wellbeing of a community cannot be underestimated. To this end we have been progressing a number of key projects in the county. As well as agreeing a Broadband Strategy setting out a blueprint for rolling out broadband across the county, we are a pilot area for the delivery of superfast broadband to benefit rural and remote parts of the county.

With Hereford Futures we continue to deliver improvements focussed on the city but which will have benefits for the whole of the county. The new £7m Livestock Market is scheduled to open in June; we have commence the £4.2m Yazor Brook flood alleviation scheme, and the agreement completed with Stanhope is already proving fruitful. Hereford will host a new multiplex cinema, a new food store and a new department store are scheduled to be built in 2012. The retail development, together with the housing development being progressed with Sanctuary housing, will be the vehicle by which the essential infrastructure for the city will be improved. Electricity and drainage systems are already at capacity and improvements in the resilience and capacity of both will be secured. Transport improvements will also be delivered.

The historic city centre continues to receive similar focus. The future of the city can only be secured by delivery of an integrated package of improvements, which cannot and must not be seen as competing. As well as the upgrading of High Town, Eign Gate and most recently Widemarsh Street, we continue to progress the development of the Buttermarket site.

The past year has seen the opening of a new school building for Earl Mortimer (formerly Minster) College in Leominster. This is in addition to new primary schools at Sutton St Nicholas and Riverside, and a further new school is in development for Leominster primary age children.

The number of vulnerable older people requiring care support continues to rise, as evidenced by the rise in adult safeguarding referrals to 680 in 2009/10 - a 45% increase since 08/09. I have already mentioned the development of an integrated care organisation in the county, and the associated plans to improve the range of care options available and reform the way in which care is provided. This is not a challenge that we can meet alone and the support of individuals, third and private sector providers, partners and the community as a whole will be essential in ensuring that vulnerable people throughout the county can receive high quality care when and where they need it.

Can I thank the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their hard work and support for the local community and to me in particular to those members who have decided not to seek re-election. It is a pleasure and honour to be your elected member and I look forward to working with you all in the years ahead.

Roger Phillips

19. **Any Additional Electors' Questions**
None.

20. **Next Meeting Arrangements**
Wed. 9th May 2012.

CHAIRMAN

11th MAY 2011