



## Fownhope Parish Council

### Annual Report Year ending March 2011



#### **From your Chairman - Gareth Williams**

This report gives an overview of the Parish Council's achievements over the past year. You will see below a range of specific activities that the council has been involved with in the past year that are easy to list, but in addition to these it is also important to note the many combined hours that the 12 council members and other volunteers put in on routine activities that go without notice or mention – so many thanks to all for this. Also of note this year is our change of Clerk – The well qualified and experienced Mel Preedy has now joined our merry crew and again we appreciate all her time and effort. Mel took over from Jem Bateman in January of this year and it is with all the best that we wish him well in the future.

This year has been full of change and in May we said goodbye to some long standing and valued members of the council – Peter Daines, Jean Boothman, Martin Williams, John Jones and David Pascoe who have all made much appreciated contributions over their respective terms. In place we welcome – Mike Simmons, Ben Straker, Peter Davies, David Shuker and Margret Rolls, all of whom are working hard to learn all about the detailed rules and protocol of being on the council yet at the same time are already making valued contribution.

Looking forwards to next year, as mentioned there is continual ongoing work to attend to and hopefully some good work for the councillors to get their teeth into!

**Projects completed** – at the beginning of last year the Stocks were fully refurbished which now form an interesting local feature and compliment the other historical features in the parish. A grant from Herefordshire Council contributed towards half of the cost of this project. The traditional red phone box on Common Hill Lane was acquired by the Parish Council and will be maintained, though a suitable use for it has not yet been found! The area of Court Garden continues to be maintained and improved, with shrubs being planted and the semi-circular bench replaced. We hope you agree that this is a much improved visual amenity. Following requests from parishioners, the Parish Council arranged with Herefordshire Council for the street lights to be turned off at midnight. This is making both environmental and economic savings.

**Planning** – the Parish Council is given the opportunity to comment on all Planning Applications received by Herefordshire Council relating to the parish. During the past year, 22 applications were considered by the Parish Council. Unless time limits prohibit, applications are discussed at Parish Council meetings where parishioners are given the opportunity to comment on any application received. All planning applications can be viewed at [www.ukplanning.com](http://www.ukplanning.com) and searching by postcode or site address, alternatively plans can be viewed at Garrick House, Hereford. It is hoped in the future planning application details will be available to view on the Parish Council's website. Thanks are expressed to the Planning Group who take the time to familiarise themselves with plans and often make site visits to enable them to make informed comments.

**Highways** – the lengthsman scheme continues to be a great success within the village and thanks are extended to Derek Colley for his effort in managing the scheme. Through a grant from Herefordshire Council and funds topped up by the Parish Council, the lengthsman attends to minor highways work such as clearing gullies, grips and drains, strimming verges, cleaning highway signs and generally improving the appearance of the parish.

Prompted by the bad winter weather the Parish Council have discussed the possibility of taking on more responsibility for snow clearing and gritting. Hopefully this is an option the Parish Council will be able to pursue this winter as Herefordshire Council recognise that local volunteers are often best placed to tackle the worst affected areas in a parish.

**Footpaths** - The P3 scheme in Fownhope, arguably the best run in the county, owes its success to the dedication of the P3 leader, David Clark and his army of volunteer way wardens. Much improvement work has taken place on the Rights of Way network. The Footpath Group meet regularly and reports can be found in the Flag. Cllr Clark has also pushed for the re-direction of the footpath near Leabrink, as supported by many parishioners at a Public meeting held in November 2010, this will shortly be completed.

**On-going projects** – Several meetings have been held with Herefordshire Council to negotiate the re-siting of the bus stop near Lucksall. This concern has also been raised by parishioners and Herefordshire Council have agreed to move the position of the stop, though it has not been progressed to date.

**Grants** – the Parish Council make annual grants to various groups within the community and will also consider ad hoc grant requests received. During the past year grants have been given to the PTFA, FRFA, and the playgroup and towards churchyard maintenance.

Below is a summary of accounts covering the period 2010-2011. The Parish Council strives for best value at all times and has set procedures in place for the governance of public money. Also set out is the budget for the forthcoming year, we hope you will agree that the Parish Council aims to balance the burden on the tax payer with the services and projects it can deliver.

<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Year End</b>		<b>Budget</b>
£ 25.00	£ 9.85	NatWest Interest	£ 20.00
£16,000.00	£ 16,000.00	Annual Precept	£16,000.00
£ 87.00	£ 63.41	Way leave	£ 90.00
£ 1,314.00	£ -	Parish Lengthsman Scheme	£ 1,300.00
£ 2,800.00	£ 2,800.00	Parish Footpaths Scheme	£ 3,050.00
£ 1,100.00	£ 1,127.88	Government Bond	£ 1,127.00
	£ 850.00	Grants	
£ 300.00	£ 795.39	Vat Recovered	£ -
<b>£21,626.00</b>	<b>£ 21,646.53</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 21,587.00</b>
		<b>Expenditure</b>	
£ 3,600.00	£ 3,159.42	Clerks Salary	£ 3,800.00
£ 500.00	£ 389.15	Expenses	£ 700.00
£ 1,995.00	£ 2,032.96	Memorial Hall PWLB repayment	£ 1,957.00
£ 300.00	£ 236.19	HALC subscriptions	£ 300.00
£ 1,200.00	£ 1,251.80	Insurance	£ 1,500.00
£ 55.00	£ 44.22	ROSPA play inspection fee	£ 60.00
£ 30.00	£ 29.94	Website	£ 100.00
£ 300.00	£ 135.00	Audit costs	£ 200.00
£ 220.00	£ 220.00	Meeting room Hire	£ 400.00
£ 300.00	£ 100.00	Training	£ 500.00
£ 1,500.00	£ 512.35	Lengthsman supplementary budget	£ 1,500.00

£ 1,500.00	£ 1,219.89	Misc. Expenses	£ 1,500.00
£ 1,314.00	£ 1,180.71	Parish Lengthsman Scheme	£ 1,300.00
£ 2,800.00	£ 2,159.69	Parish Footpaths	£ 3,050.00
£ 240.00	£ -	Freighter Service	£ -
£ 1,000.00	£ 84.00	FRFA Revenue Support Fund	£ 1,000.00
£ 500.00	£ 500.00	Church Yard Maintenance	£ 1,000.00
£ 5,000.00	£ 4,076.47	Parish Improvement Projects	£ 1,220.00
£ -	£ -	Rec Field track maintenance	£ 500.00
£ -	£ -	Rec Field fund	£ 1,000.00
£ -	£ 866.20	VAT Paid	£ -
<b>£22,354.00</b>	<b>£ 18,197.99</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 21,587.00</b>

£40,298.39	Opening Balance April 2010
£43,746.93	Closing Balance March 2011
£ 6,732.00	Rec Field Fund
£ 2,099.00	Rec Field track Main
£ 750.00	Election Provision
£ 1,000.00	Venture Play Area
£25,000.00	Government bond
£ 5,280.00	33% Precept Contingency
£ 2,885.93	Total Unallocated funds

#### **Fownhope Parish Council – contact details**

Gareth Williams      Address: Caplor Farm, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PT.  
Tel: 01432 861009  
Email: gareth@caplor.co.uk

David Clark            Address: Holyrood House, 2 Ringfield Drive, Fownhope, HR1 4PR.  
Tel: 01432 860017

Derek Colley         Address: Orchard Lodge, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PJ  
Tel: 01432 860986

Ann Corby             Address: Pippins, Capler Lane, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PJ  
Tel: 01432 860677

Peter Davis            Address: 5 Ringfield Drive, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PR  
Tel: 01432 860719

John Hardwick        Address: Oldstone Farm, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PJ  
Tel: 01432 860322

Fred Jolley            Address: Scotch Bungalow, Scotch Firs, Fownhope, HR1 4NW  
Tel: 01432 860629

Hilary Mansell        Address: The Woodlands, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PA  
Tel: 01432 860354

Margret Rolls         Address: 2 Manor Court, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PW  
Tel: 01432 860827

Mike Simmons                   Address: Leabrink, Fownhope, Herefordshire, HR1 4PJ  
Tel: 01432 860225

Ben Straker                     Address: Alpha House, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PE  
Tel: 01432 860061

Parish Clerk:                 Melanie Preedy  
Address: 6 Cherry Orchard, Tillington, Hereford, HR4 8LE  
Tel. 01432 769480  
Email: fownhopeclerk@hotmail.com

Ward member:                 John Hardwick  
Address: Oldstone Farm, Fownhope, Hereford, HR1 4PJ  
Tel: 01432 860322  
Email: jhardwick1@herefordshire.gov.uk