

**Notes of the Meeting****Present**

Parish Councillors M Baggaley, K Barnett, Dr M Calhaem, A Elkin, R Hocknell, M Ingram, H Walters.

County Councillor Councillor Ian Parry

District Councillor Councillor Andrew Harp

**1 Chairman's Report for Milwich with Fradswell Parish Council 2012 - 2013**

Milwich Parish Councillor Terry Stevens sadly and suddenly died during the year, the last meeting he attended being the June 2012 meeting at Green Lea School. He was involved in the Broadband initiatives on behalf of the Parish and had been a Councillor only since May 2011.

No election was called and the Parish Council duly co-opted Michael Baggaley as a Member Councillor. The full compliment being seven Milwich Members and two Fradswell Member.

Of the twelve Parish Council meetings during the year four were held in Milwich Village Hall, three at Fradswell Village Hall and five at Green Lea School.

The County Councillor Ian Parry continued to represent Stone Rural Division.

District Councillor Andrew Harp continued to represent Milwich Ward.

During the year :-

Brick Kiln Pits The fishing lease arrangements with Izaak Walton (Stafford) Anglers Association continued. The Parish Council thanks Peter Hulme who again cut the boundary hedge free of charge.

Several Milwich parishioners requested permits to fish at the Pool.

A new wicket gate was fitted by MAC Footpath Working Group.

Dialogue with other authorities continued throughout the year, mainly with the County Council and the Borough Council.

County Council the main ongoing issues were :-

The state of the roads compounded by the wet Summer and Autumn in 2012 and snow in the Spring this year. The potholes continued to be repaired and the reporting system was generally effective but it was the flooding due to drainage problems that gave rise to a number of problems. The B5027 Uttoxeter Road at Flash Pit being a particular problem that has still to be resolved.

The other general road issue being the state of Sandon Lane, particularly up to Cromer Hill, compounded by the volume of traffic at peak times, the size of the vehicles and the problems associated with passing on what is effectively a single carriage highway from Milwich to the Sandon side of Cromer Hill.

The Jubilee Celebrations, organised by Councillor Hayley Walters, received a grant from the County Council through Councillor Parry.

Place names for Milwich Heath and Summerhill have been discussed with the County Council and should be erected in the next few months.

Borough Council, the Civic Amenity Visits continued with three visits to Milwich during the year plus the Streetscene operation continued dealing with litter picking and clearing up after fly tipping.

The Borough Council provided and fitted road signs for Sandon Lane, Potmans Lane and Spon Drumble Lane plus a replacement sign at Common Lane.

Discussions began on the Play Area facility within the Parish and also the possibility of the Parish Council taking over grass cutting responsibility from the Borough Council.

Consultations on Planning Applications dealt with by the Borough Council as the Planning Authority for the area continued :-

There were 7 applications for Milwich (8 last year) and 5 for Fradswell (2 last year)  
One is still pending at Milwich Heath and the Withysitch Lane Farm applications have generally been refused, with appeals involved and outstanding applications still to be determined.

Hay Barn / Machinery Store	2	Milwich Heath
	1	Fradswell
Garden / Stable / Menage development	4	Withysitch Lane Farm
Extension	1	Coton
Garage/ Store	3	Fradswell
Conservatory	1	Fradswell

Financial Support was provided for Milwich Village Hall, Fradswell Village Hall, Compass Magazine and Milwich Toddlers Group.

The two bench seats in Allways Close were both refurbished during the year.

**2 Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

Presented by the Clerk. No questions raised.

**3 Council's Observations on its Finances for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

Presented by the Clerk. No questions raised.

**4 To receive Accounts of Milwich Parochial Charities**

Presented by the Clerk.

**5 To Receive the Observations of the County Councillor for Stone Rural Division**

Councillor Parry's report included the following topics :-

In two weeks time Councillor Parry would have served the Stone Rural Division as a County Councillor for 16 years.

- 5.1 The last four years had been significant in Local Government, particularly in relation to its finances with a reduction of 20% in the County spending power.  
Increase of nearly 100% in the number of children in care.

Population generally living longer resulting in a massive increase in care needs which outstrips every other area of spending as an estimated increase of £8M per year is required.  
Centre of Excellence for Dementia Care.

Additional Care housing being provided.

On the plus side there is an expanding income generated partly by retaining business rates, which is currently 0.5%.

- 5.2 Condition of rural roads. Extra £50M to repair potholes with an additional 100 potholes being repaired each week. 45% of roads were being gritting - the second highest ratio in the Country.

No dedicated teams operating, there is just one team to deal with flooding, pothole and gritting. Church Lane in Milwich will be resurfaced shortly.

- 5.3 Broadband. A deal worth £90M will be finalised later this month. By 2016 / 2017 the infrastructure on A and B roads will be complete.

## **6 To Receive the Observations of the District Councillor for Milwich Ward**

Councillor Harp's report included the following topics :-

- 6.1 Finances - Council Tax capped by the Borough, looking at every service, sharing costs with neighbouring councils.
- 6.2 LDF - not yet accepted by the Inspectorate. No development growth expected in rural areas. Development is necessary overall in the Borough - Housing and Business generates income.
- 6.3 The public have not seen any difference in services provided by the Borough despite the cuts.

## **7 To consider Resolutions of which written notice has been given.**

None

## **8 To deal with any other business raised by Parishioners.**

None