

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - March 2007



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS CAN YOU HELP THE PARISH COUNCIL?

All Parish/Town Council seats are due for election on Thursday the 3rd of May 2007. Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor? If not - why not? (See page 2 for more details on what a councillor does.) No formal qualifications are needed to become a Parish Councillor and you could represent the Parish and the views of its residents.

To legally qualify as a candidate for election as a Parish Councillor, on the day of nomination you must be aged 21 years or over and either be a citizen of the UK or Commonwealth (or a citizen of the Irish Republic or a citizen of a member state of the EU).

In addition to the above a candidate must qualify under one of the following: 1, be registered as a local government elector of the parish concerned, or 2, have lived either in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres (3miles) of it during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day on which he or she is nominated as a candidate, or 3, had their principal or only place of work in the area of the parish for twelve months, or 4, occupied land or other premises in the parish, as an owner or tenant, during the whole twelve months preceding the day on which they are nominated.

You will be unable to stand as a candidate

if any of the following apply: 1, You work for, and are paid by, the Parish Council, or 2, you are bankrupt, or 3, you have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (suspended or not) of not less than 3 months without the option of a fine within 5 years prior to the election, or 4, you have been disqualified by any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

It is said that 'people get the local council they deserve', **your contribution and your vote counts!**

For more information please contact either: Michael Gledhill, Clerk to Rodington Parish Council, Birchmere, 21 Leegomery Road, Telford, TF1 3BP.

Telephone: (01952) 252115,
e-mail: mikegled@tiscali.co.uk, or
Electoral Services, Telford and Wrekin Council, P.O. Box 216, Civic Offices, Telford. TF3 4LD,

Telephone 01952 383201,
e-mail: elections@telford.gov.uk

Back editions of the newsletter can be seen on the
Rodington Parish Council website:-

www.rodingtonpc.org.uk

Don't Forget the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
7pm Wednesday 4th April 2007 Rodington Village Hall.
Everyone cordially invited - have your say on what happens locally

Want to be a Parish Councillor? May 3rd 2007 is your opportunity.

The question poses a variety of considerations, what does it involve, what's the reward, how much time does it involve and various other issues. We shall try to answer these objectively.

Rodington PC meets the first Wednesday of every month except August, which is a month off. Attendance record has to be good and missing a meeting requires prior notice in the form of an apology. The meeting requires a little preparation, namely read the minutes from prior meeting to check you agree with them and check any tasks allocated to you have been actioned prior the meeting. During the month you will have received the "Blue" bag (or a file) which is general correspondence received by the Council. Sometimes its very light and interesting other times its 4" thick and not so interesting. Speed-reading is a handy skill with this. Having read the contents you jump in the car or on two legs on a fine day walk round and deliver the bag to the next councillor.

Local knowledge is useful as your opinion on planning applications and concerns raised by people will be needed in meetings. Note if a planning application is very close to your abode you will have to declare an interest and be excluded from any vote on the application. On the question of ethics and interests transparency is vital and prior to taking your post members have to register any commercial interests, such as business activities, membership of business associations etc.

This Parish due to its size is allocated seven members and currently has an annual budget of just £8500. To maximise benefit to the Parish, Councillors voted not to draw the annual entitlement of £250 allowance each and in the past year not one made any personal expense claims for sundries or petrol. Each current member classes himself or herself as an independent so there are no party politics that colour decision-making in the larger councils. The reward therefore is one of satisfaction in seeing benefits being achieved for the community on a shoestring. Traffic calming improvements, pothole repairs, a well-manicured and maintained cemetery and financial support to the two village halls being main areas of activity.

The future for Parish Councils is bright because the Government has been anxious to get people involved at local levels. PC's are expected to attain quality status and grants and funding are increasingly linked to performance even at PC level. To achieve this status the PC clerk has to be legally qualified, the PC has to consult and communicate on regular basis (hence the newsletter) and it has to achieve quantifiable results that are for the well being of the Community. The Government goal is to make PC's more professional and gradually extend their limited powers into more areas of local governance.

Interested? Then contact the Clerk Michael Gledhill for advice on ballot papers etc.

Help Save the Planet:

Would you like your future copies of the newsletter sent by email rather than by post? Please email the clerk to the council at mikegled@tiscali.co.uk with the subject "newsletter" and provide your contact details (including your postal address) in the body of the email.

Do you have an article or pictures you would like included in future newsletters please contact the clerk.

What's On In Rodington Village Hall.

Friday	9th March	The Shropshire Orpheus Savoyards.
Saturday	24th March	Rodington Players, 'A SPRING IN YOUR STEP'.
Friday	30th March	The Jackfield Elcock Reisen Band.
Friday	13th April	Race Night.
Friday	20th April	Flicks in the Sticks, 'UNITED 93'.
Friday	18th May	The Telford Orchestra.

Monday 19th March at 7.30pm Shropshire Garden Railway Group will hold its inaugural meeting to which a warm invitation is extended to anyone who is interested. Admission £2.00 The meeting will include Railway Bring and Buy Sales and Swap, a test track, and refreshments. Further information Tel 01743 359004.

Regular Activities.

Monday	(afternoon)	Line Dancing.
	(evening)	Rodington Players.
Tuesday	(morning)	Keep Fit.
	(afternoon)	Painting class.
	(evening)	Bingo (fortnightly).
Wednesday	(morning)	Computer class.
	(afternoon)	Ballroom and Latin dancing.
	(evening)	Whist or Ladies' Club. (Alternate weeks).
Thursday	(morning)	Indoor bowls.
	(afternoon)	Indoor bowls.
	(evening)	Buggy Club.
Saturday	(evening)	Astronomical Society. (Monthly)

For further details contact Stan Boden on 01952 770524. Details of club secretaries are on our website. To book the Meeting Room or Main Hall contact Jean Bonehill on 01952 770429. For hire rates and more details log on to:

www.rodingtonvillagehall.org.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7pm Wednesday 4th April 2007 Rodington Village Hall.

Everyone cordially invited - have your say on what happens locally

LONGDON-UPON-TERN VILLAGE HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pathway People, Alternate Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00pm (Doreen Brown 541395 or Rosalie Wheeldon 770247).

Line Dancing, Tuesdays 7:30pm (Janet French 770677).

Canine Conumdrums, Wednesdays. (Carol 410964).

Yoga, Thursday evenings, term time, (Janet Evans 245983).

Special Events 28th April **Open Mic Evening**, date to be confirmed **50/50 Auction**

Please note that if you want to book the hall for either a one off event, or for a regular event please contact Janet on 770677.

www.rodingtonpc.org.uk

This is your Parish Council web-site. Here you will find contact names of your local Councillors, what's going on at Rodington or Longdon Village Halls and what is your Council up to? Rodington is one of the few PC's who operate an independent web site and mindful of cost the original set up was funded by CPRE and subsequently operated by members with an annual cost projected this year to be the grand sum of £45.

So please visit and email in any ideas/subjects that you feel should be included that would be useful for us all within the Parish to the Clerk; mikegled@tiscali.co.uk

Have you an article or photographs that you would like either in a future newsletter or on the website - let us know! Articles of local interest are always appreciated.

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

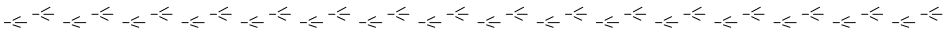
Cllr. Janet French (Chairman)	01952 770 677	janet@terncrafts.co.uk
Cllr. Brian Ashton	01952 770 156	c/o the clerk see below
Cllr. Claire Broderick	01952 770 636	mclairb@btinternet.com
Cllr. David Johnson (Vice Chair)	01952 770 577	dave.johnson@t2enterprises.co.uk
Cllr. Liz Tudor	01952 770 348	lizzie.tudor@virgin.net
Cllr. Tim Osborne	01952 770 801	opsi@direct.shawburyigs.raf.mod.uk
Cllr. John Perkin	01952 771 261	nikrep@dsl.pipex.com
Borough Councillors		
Cllr. Jacqueline Seymour	01952 506 790	jacqui.seymour@telford.gov.uk
Cllr. David Blackwell	01952 222 763	david.blackwell@telford.gov.uk

Clerk to Rodington Parish Council, Michael Gledhill, Birchmere, 21 Leegomery Road, Wellington, Telford. TF1 3BP Tel: 01952 252 115 Email: mikegled@tiscali.co.uk

Dates for your diary:

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Annual Parish Meeting	Wed	4th April 2007	19:00	Rodington Village Hall
followed by				
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	4th April 2007		Rodington Village Hall
Election day	Thu	3 rd May 2007		
Parish Council AGM	Wed	9 th May 2007	19:00	Longdon Village Hall
followed by				
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	9 th May 2007		Longdon Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	6th June 2007	19:30	Rodington Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	4 th July 2007	19:30	Longdon Village Hall
No meeting planned in August				
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	5th September 2007	19:30	Rodington Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	3 rd October 2007	19:30	Longdon Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	7th November 2007	19:30	Rodington Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	5 th December 2007	19:30	Longdon Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	2nd January 2008	19:30	Rodington Village Hall

www.rodingtonpc.org.uk



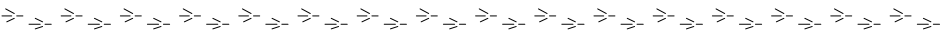
**HIGH ERCALL PRE-5SCHOOL — Calling all Pre-Schoolers!
(Children accepted from 2 years old)**

High Ercall Pre-School provides a stimulating and fun environment for young enquiring minds in a small village community. The Pre-School was started in the 1970's by a small, but committed group of local parents, wishing to establish a safe and secure place for their children to play, grow and develop.

We are situated in the lovely grounds of High Ercall Primary School in a modern, well equipped and self-contained building, with ramped access and our own secure outside play area.

If your child is not yet old enough to join Pre-School, you may be interested in our very popular Parent & Toddler Group. The group meets weekly and is run by our Pre-School Leader - it is an excellent way to meet other parents and children in the area. The group has full use of the Pre-School building and all its indoor and outdoor facilities.

If this sounds like the setting your child would enjoy being part of and for more information about High Ercall Pre-School and / or the Parent & Toddler Group (including timetables or fee Structures) Please contact: Claire Evans our Admissions Officer, on 01952 770195.



Why do we have a Newsletter? About 3 years ago the Parish Council as a whole started looking at the ways that we communicated with the Parish. At that time we had the notice board in Rodington and access to the boards inside the Village Halls and the Post Office and some other pieces of wood that had been hung on a random selection of walls around the Parish. The Parish is so scattered that it was a matter of chance whether you drove past one of the boards and we thought that this is no way to get information out there. At the same time we set out on the process to become a Quality Parish, partly because it is a benchmark for the standards of performance and partly because in the future the funding going to Parish Councils will be less without the Quality status.

One of the requirements for Quality status is a newsletter at least 4 times a year so we set out to see whether that would help with our communications within the Parish.

The response to the first newsletters was a revelation to us. We had almost completely favourable comments saying how nice it was that we were taking the trouble to contact all of the Parish and comments have generally continued to be very positive. There have been some people who think that we are wasting our time which is fair enough; we all have our opinions and anyone that objects to receiving the newsletter can be taken off the mailing list.

There is no doubt that the newsletter costs money so we have to try to be sure that we are serving the Parish by publishing it. If all it does is tick one of the boxes for Quality status then we would be wasting our time and your money so we try to put as much information in it as we can. We have 2 more notice boards now and our website, but nothing beats an envelope through every door to spread the word.

Both village halls have already benefited from the newsletter publicity for their events and the feedback that we have tells us that people really do read it and engage with it.

The newsletter is now established with a regular timetable that fits the pattern of the Parish Council's year. The leaflets that are sometimes enclosed help to cover the costs, however we are very cautious about what commercial advertising we accept because we don't want to send you junk mail, just good information.

Now what else would you like to see in the newsletter? How about writing a paragraph about your own events or classes in the Parish or close by so that we can all join in?



The Community Foundation for Shropshire and Telford

President: Algernon Heber-Percy Esq. Lord Lieutenant

Community and Voluntary Groups can apply for a grant to strengthen their work or develop a new project.

The Community Foundation for Shropshire and Telford is a local grant making charity. We aim to raise and ensure the effective distribution of funds to support local community voluntary and charitable groups, thus helping to ensure their future sustainability.

The Community Foundation for Shropshire and Telford is holding its first funding event "Firm Foundations" on Saturday's 31st March, 2007 at a Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford from 10:00 to 13:00. We have pleasure in inviting you to join us and represent your organization at this event. "Firm Foundations" offers an opportunity for you to learn more about The Community Foundation for Shropshire and the grants which are available to local groups.

The program will comprise of grants information, short presentations and participation in workshops. Further arrangements can be made for one to one appointments and advice to small groups on the day. The whole event has been planned with the interests and needs of voluntary organisations in mind and we hope that your organisation will be represented. We believe by working together in this way we can help volunteer groups to achieve grants to help them to become sustainable. Places are limited for this special event and early booking is recommended. Telephone 01952 201858 to book your place. Leaflets and information packs will be available for you to take away on the day.
Mike Gugh Director

Longdon upon Tern Village Hall Committee have received two grants from the Community Foundation over the last few years. The Foundation does not like to help with bricks and mortar but focuses at a more personal level, looking to help with the nitty gritty of everyday. They especially like projects where a small investment in equipment or materials can lead to greater things.

Our first grant helped us to buy decent tables and chairs, the old chairs had been hand me downs from a school and had short legs! That furniture made sure that we could keep using the hall while we were looking for our refurbishment money and we expect them to last us for many years to come. Pam Bradburn from the Foundation has been a great strength and support to us and when she heard about the rebuilding work she asked us to remember the Foundation for the little things that would help us to make the best of the new hall. This time the grant paid for a floor polisher, paper towel dispensers and a wonderful array of kitchen equipment.

The Foundation has helped all sorts of small groups with grants for equipment. The advice and support that they freely give in such a friendly and practical way makes them the most useful funding agency for small organisations in Telford and Shropshire. We cannot speak too highly of the Foundation for what they have given to us in Longdon.

Spot the odd one out - Out of the three pictures below please state which one is the odd one out and the reason for being the odd one out. Answers please by email to mikegled@tiscali.co.uk



Picture 1 - Janet French (Chair) polish- ing the village hall floor

Results will be given in the next newsletter

Picture 2 - Longdon upon Tern Village Hall



Picture 3 - Michael Gledhill (Clerk) cooking in the village hall

