

Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt cum Petton Parish residents

Issue 8 August 2012

Welcome

to the Summer issue of 'Our Parish Matters' - a little later than usual because we wanted to include the latest news on matters which will influence the future of the Parish — the Jubilee Field and residential development in Cockshutt.

When it comes to development, there are of course, many differing points of view put forward and it isn't possible to please everyone. The Parish Council listens to the views put forward and makes decisions based on what it believes is best for the future of the community. However, it is realistic enough to acknowledge that whatever development sites are eventually agreed there will be positive and negative impacts.

In the autumn, the Council and the new Advisory Committee will be seeking your views on the Jubilee Field — keep up to date by looking at the notice boards and the website.

John Dickin

Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

The Jubilee Field

After many years of discussions and legal twists and turns, earlier this year the Parish Council finally took ownership of the block of land behind Wimbourne Cottages on behalf of the Parish residents.

In June, on a typical summer evening (yes, cold and wet!), the official naming and opening of the Jubilee Field took place. The Parish Council had suggested the name of 'Jubilee' to commemorate this year's historic Royal event and this was endorsed by those attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Council did not have any hesitation in



asking the 2 residents of the village who were instrumental in obtaining this plot of land for the community to carry out the official duties. As you will see from the photographs, Mr Sid Davies MBE and Mr George Reeves agreed to do so. There is a plaque to record the event and this will be placed within the Millennium Hall.

So what will happen now? To start with, some fencing will be erected to protect the Field from unwanted vehicles. Consultation with the community as to whether dogs should be allowed or not on it will start later this year. The future, more permanent use of the Field will be the subject of other consultation—see inside for more details.

HALL



Forthcoming and Past Events

Play Area

Everyone must have noticed, especially the youngsters, that the Play Area has opened with the addition of several new facilities to enjoy.

Over a certain age? - don't attempt them! It has taken some time and effort to establish, but has been well worth the effort when we see how much enjoyment it gives to the village.

Bingo & Short Mat Bowls

Both events are increasingly well supported; Bingo every second Saturday (Pam - 270812) and Bowls every Thursday evening (Ron - 270358)
Keep supporting them !

Broadband

The Broadband facility is up and running in the hall. We are sure that the benefit to the Playgroup and others has made it worthwhile.

Cockfest

As a result of the enormous success of last year's event, Jonnymo hopes to organise the event again this year during the weekend of 15 /16 September. The event will be out in the open, with more bands this year than ever !

Food will again be available at a reasonable cost together with alcoholic refreshment at a cost of several hangovers the following day. Tickets should be available about one month ahead of the date and will be available from several outlets in the village.

Read & Absorb

The Hall Management Committee exist to ensure that the hall is maintained for the use by residents of the villages of Cockshutt and Petton. To achieve this, monies have to be raised to cover the cost of maintenance and improvement; this includes the Play area and the playing field. This is achieved by hiring the hall to societies and individuals who wish to organise corporate or individual events The committee regard the Hall as being one of the finest in the area and it was created through the fine efforts of village residents. It would be something of a tragedy to see the hall not being used.

In a village of some 800 people it is surely not unreasonable to ask that more be done in organising events, whether they be regular gatherings or one-off events. There is a very substantial discount to our residents.

Please contact any of the Hall committee if you feel like having a go.

To book the hall contact Sandra Morris on 07929 773241.

Diary reminders

2nd September - Horticultural Show

15th September - Cockfest

27th October - Free Disco & Halloween Party

Ian Morris

Introducing your new Councillor

At the meeting in June, Linda Baumgartl was co-opted onto the Parish Council as the Ward Councillor for Petton. Linda takes over from Allan Biggs who resigned earlier this year. For those who do not know Linda, a short introduction follows.

"I have lived in Petton for 12 years and I still consider myself an 'incomer' and open to learn more about Shropshire. I have so far immersed myself into village life (Cockshutt and Petton) by being involved with the Church, Plant Sale, Horticultural Show, researched and typed for the Cockshutt cum Petton local history book, done volunteer work at the school, village hall, and am also a member of Shropshire Wildlife Trust. And of course, I run the village shop!

If any resident in Petton has a problem or an issue you would like me to raise with the Parish Council or even Shropshire Council please get in touch—you know where to find me!"

Future Development in the Parish

Not many residents in Shropshire will have missed the publicity in the local press surrounding Shropshire Council's consultation on future development in the County for the period up to 2026 and this Parish has not escaped its share of debate. Shropshire Council started the process back in 2010 and following consultation with the community, the Parish Council advised that Cockshutt would consider up to 50 new houses, on the west side of A528, on sites no more than 5 houses. Petton would remain as 'Countryside' with no new houses being built.

This year, during May, June and July the consultation process continued and the Parish Council sought opinions and listened to representations regarding where in Cockshutt appropriate sites for new houses could be allocated. The Council agreed a process so that every site which had been put forward for consideration would be reviewed on the same basis. At the end of the review process the Council has identified 4 potential sites, which meet the Parish Council's criteria, but has asked Shropshire Council for further discussion to ensure they are viable sites for development.

There has been great concern in Cockshutt after it was discovered that the Playing Field had been put forward for development. The Parish Council has re-iterated its response made in 2010 that the Playing Field is an open space which is particularly valued and must be protected and enhanced as a recreational area. This area must **not** be included in any proposal for residential development.

The process to identify sites will continue into the Autumn and the Council will provide a further update in the next newsletter.

Advisory Committee Jubilee Field

The Parish Council has appointed an Advisory Committee chaired by Cllr John Cooling to co-ordinate the consultation process as to the future use of the Jubilee Field. The advantage of this style of Committee is that local residents and experts can be appointed to make sure the best advice is given and acted on. The Committee is made up of Councillors, representatives of the Hall, School and Pre-School and residents. Its first

meeting will take place in September, so look out for notices about future events where you can have your say. It is important that everyone has an input to make the best use of this new asset.

Cockshutt School is Thriving!

We are very proud of our SAT's results this year with 100% achieving Level 4 or above and a large percentage of Level 5's. This is the result of a really good team made up of the dedicated school staff, supportive parents and hard working children. So well done to you all!

There is a real buzz at Cockshutt School as our numbers continue to increase. We have always known that children get a great start to their school life at Cockshutt but the "Outstanding" grade received by our Early Years Foundation Stage has sent the message out far and wide and our numbers have been on a steady rise. So much so, that we are taking on another teacher and increasing from three classes to four. Our Governors have always supported small class sizes whenever possible and are fully behind the setting up of a fourth class to achieve this.

For the second time in a row we have received Arts Mark Gold which is a very prestigious award and very difficult for a small school to achieve because of the range of arts experiences that have to be offered to all the children. We have outstanding art taking place, dance, music and drama which have all helped us to achieve this award.

For a number of years we have also been very proud of our sport. Being a small school we cannot pick and choose like the larger schools we play against. But as always we do fantastically, winning Cricket and Rugby.

Cockshutt School is a great place to be. We offer a broad curriculum in a friendly, supportive environment where children are happy and inspired. If you would like to visit us, come to our Open Day on 20th September 2012 between 9:00am and 5:30pm. Our catchment area is made up of: Cockshutt, Burlton, Petton, Colemere and English Frankton but we do have children from further afield if there is space.

Mrs H Dawson
Headteacher BA Hons, NPQH

Annual Parish Meeting

This year the Annual Parish Meeting held in April was very well attended. The reason for this was that it coincided with the consultation Shropshire Council was carrying out regarding future development in the County. The Parish Council's response to that consultation is explained earlier in the newsletter.

The overwhelming feeling of those present was that Shropshire Council's identification of the Playing Field as being a possible site for residential development was not appropriate and that this should be objected to. The Councillors present endorsed this opinion.

As discussion on future development was the main topic of discussion, the Chair of the Parish Council, John Dickin, agreed to defer his report to this newsletter. His report is as follows:

"Firstly, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, whose attendance throughout the year and dedication to turn their attention and comment on a wide range of topics has been commendable. With every year that passes Parish Councils are being consulted on more and more different topics and the Localism Act will give more opportunities to represent our communities.

The main success of the year must be the acquisition of the Jubilee Field. It was the fruition of many years of negotiation. It is hoped it will become a valued and well used area of the Parish.

The Council has also been able to install an additional street light on Church Green. This will aid people crossing the road to and from the Church and School. A notice board for the Council was also erected. This will ensure all documents which are legally required to be displayed are done so at a central point.

Although we did not experience as severe a winter as 2011, the Council was able to obtain additional grit bins at key locations in the Parish at no additional cost to the Council. Other 'Highways' matters included regular requests to repair pot holes, gully clearance and additional road signs. It is hoped the new contractors which Shropshire Council has appointed, Ringway, will bring at least as good a service. The Council is also following the road improvements at Kenwick Springs carefully and has made several recommendations to Shropshire Council.

Finally, a thank you to our Clerk, Carole Warner, for ensuring we are kept up to date with the changes taking place at Shropshire Council and, most importantly, ensuring we are fully briefed on local and national issues"

Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

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John Cooling	01939 270 309
John Dickin (Chair)	01939 270 240
Helen Eatough	01939 270 364
Alf Johnson	01939 270 245
Eddie Jones	01939 270 285
Geoff Ralphs	01939 270 664
Gill Webb	01939 270 265

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams	01939 234198
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Millennium Hall

To book the hall:	
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For information about the hall:	
Peter Griffiths	01939 270 463
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Cockshutt C of E Primary School

School Office (term time only)	01939 270 616
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Cockshutt Community Pre-School

School Office (term time only)	01939 270 816
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