

PURITON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

Chairman's Report

It has been an exciting year for your Council and for Puriton as a whole. I would firstly like to thank all members of the Puriton Council for their dedication to service and continual commitment to the village they serve.

What we have achieved:-

- 1 The Village Newsletter gets better and better each time it is published - a special thanks to Peter Burke its Editor who always puts 110% effort into it.
- 2 The Village Web Site again a big thank you to James White – a resident of Puriton – who's Company designed it free of charge and to Peter and Bruce Poole our Parish Clerk who maintain it for us. We are continually looking for local news and events to put into it.
- 3 The Bright Lights Award – the Christmas lights around the village. This gave a lot of people a great deal of pleasure as they walked around the village viewing all the contributors.
- 4 The IT Equipment and Internet access recently installed in the Village Hall has proved to be a great asset to Puriton bringing us into the 21st century. It means the Parish Council can now view planning applications on line and gain immediate access to all sorts of internet web sites relating to local government information. Better still this facility can also be enjoyed by anyone using the Village Hall. The other benefit is that outside bodies will want to use our facilities which in turn bring in much needed money to our public buildings.
- 5 Notice Boards for public information. In the next few weeks a new much larger Notice Board will be erected in the Car Park of the Village Hall. It will have three independent sections – one for use of the Parish Council – one for Puriton Playing Fields Committee and one for the Village Hall and its user groups. The Notice Board will be illuminated so it can be enjoyed during the evenings as well as during the day.

As you can see your Parish Council has been busy and I'm sure you will agree that we are indeed a good Council acting on your behalf. One of our future aspirations is to secure Quality Council status putting us amongst the better run councils in the country. On a personal note I have been proud and privileged to serve as your Parish Council Chairman

Mark Healey

Open Spaces

The main thing to report is the Mr Chris Hewett has agreed to take over as Parish Path Liaison Officer. In this role, he will be in contact with Somerset County Council, reporting any problems with rights of way in the parish as well as carrying out minor maintenance tasks.

The latest news is that the works to bath BW28/15-28/10 (through Dunball Wharf) has been completed. This was reported by email today, but the Parish Council has not been able to check as yet.

There continue to be complaints concerning the 'horse stile' erected by the landowner on BW28/1, all of which have been reported to the relevant county council officer.

Judith Fletcher

Puriton Playing Fields

Puriton Playing Fields is a registered charity which runs the Sports Centre and its adjacent playing fields, as well as the small field and playground at Riverton Road.

The Sports Centre is home to Puriton Bowling Club, Puriton Gold Archery Society, Westland (W) Rifle & Pistol Club, and Puriton Youth Club. We also host two football clubs, Wembdon FC and Quantock Pride, and Chilton Polden Cricket Club. Other activities include ballroom dancing, line dancing and t'ai chi. Suggestions for other activities, as well as private bookings, are always welcome.

The charity has had a successful year, with income from bookings at the Sports Centre holding up well despite the economic recession. We have carried out some improvements to the car park at the Sports Centre, and intend to improve the surface near the entrance and provide disabled parking spaces. Other projects in the pipeline include improvements to the changing rooms and renewal of play equipment at Riverton Road.

The trustees of Puriton Playing Fields are:

Ray Chick, Derek Clarke, Jean Cooper, Judith Fletcher (Chair), Colin Foy, Diana Mitchell and Sandra Tizzard. There is one vacancy.

Judith Fletcher

Village Newsletter

The Parish Council's newsletter, called Your Puriton Newsletter, was launched early in 2008 and recently celebrated its first birthday with the production of the fourth (Spring) issue in March this year.

It is produced in A5 booklet form and has grown from a modest 20 pages, carrying one sample advert, to a somewhat larger publication of 36 pages carrying 12 commercial adverts.

The newsletter is delivered free to every household in the parish (hopefully there are none that have been missed). Delivery is carried out by several parish councillors, aided and abetted by a small band of volunteers. We'd like to extend our thanks to the latter for their invaluable assistance.

One disappointing aspect is that there has been little in the way of contributions from readers, whether as letters to the editor or as articles submitted for publication. In addition the various user groups at the village hall and the sports centre have generally failed to make use of the newsletter to promote their organisations and publicise their fund raising activities. This is particularly disappointing when village news and adverts for events are submitted to the Polden Post and local paper by people in the village.

On a more positive note there has been much positive verbal feedback and some very complimentary remarks passed about the publication and, hopefully, as people realise that it is now a regular and permanent feature, they will start to contribute and become involved.

Peter Burke - Editor

Parish Council Website

Following the launch of the newsletter the Parish Council received an offer it couldn't refuse, which was a web site at no cost. This generous offer came from James White, a Puriton resident. James offered the services of his company, Customers Really Matter, to design and host the site.

After a number of meetings to agree the 'look and feel' and decide the content, CRM's team produced the initial version. Following some testing and further development the site went live on 3rd November last year.

It is to be found at www.puritonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Since its launch there have been some 1,700 visits recorded with a total of 15416 pages viewed. Since detailed records began on 14th December an average of 40% of the visits each week have been new visitors.

The site has many features, including latest news and latest events pages, sections about the parish council, the village, the playing fields and the sports centre. There is also a picture gallery, an information board with many useful links and, more recently, a forum, although this latter has not yet been much used.

Visitors to the site can use it to contact their parish councillors and sign up to receive electronic newsletters. Parish council meeting minutes and the quarterly newsletter are available to download as PDF files (the latter in glorious colour!).

Disappointingly, as with the newsletter, there has been little in the way of contributions from village residents and particularly the village hall and sports centre user groups who seem not to have grasped the fact that it provides a marvellous platform to promote their organisations and advertise their fundraising events.

Finally, many thanks to James and his team at CRM who have done a marvellous job in producing a very professional looking and easy to use web site.

Well done to all of them.

Puriton Parish Council (08-09)
Summary from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

Balance at 1 April 2008		26,520.22
Current	21,405.44	
Village Newsletter	1,000.00	
Street Light Reserve	865.09	
Election Reserve	249.69	
Youth Shelter	2,000.00	
Local Action Team	500.00	
Employment Contingency	500.00	
IT Project	0.00	
Receipts		
VAT on RECEIPTS		
VAT repaid by HMCE	187.35	
		187.35
PRECEPT		
Precept	22,340.00	
		22,340.00
OTHER INCOME		
Amenity Grant	150.80	
Miscellaneous income	336.76	
Village Newsletter	76.50	
SCC IT Grant	15,000.00	
SCC - County Councillor Donation	1,000.00	
		16,564.06
		39,091.41
		<u>65,611.63</u>
Payments		
STAFF COSTS		
Clerk's salary	6,266.09	
		6,266.09
ADMINISTRATION		
Clerk's Office Expenses	600.00	
Stationery	327.02	
Postage	94.70	
Insurances	467.46	
Audit fees	150.69	
Courses	421.77	
Somerset Playing Field Association	10.00	
Somerset Association of Local Councils	405.47	
Community Council for Somerset	25.00	
NALC - DIS	90.00	
Society of Local Council Clerks	94.00	
Conference Expenses	1,036.79	
IT	258.05	
Data Protection	35.00	
Travel	387.87	
Village Newsletter	655.00	
Hall Hirings	42.00	
		5,100.82
CIVIC		
Councillor's expenses	35.80	
Chairman's allowance	48.98	
		84.78
GRANTS		
St Michaels and All Angels PCC	1,000.00	
Playing Field Grant	1,500.00	
Village Hall Grant	500.00	

Puriton Parish Council (08-09)
Summary from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

GRANTS (cont'd)			
Sunshine Pre-School Grant	249.50		
Age Concern	150.00		
St Margarets Hospice	150.00		
Citizens Advice Bureau	150.00		
Relate	150.00		
Sedgemoor Community Transport	500.00		
Air Ambulance	<u>150.00</u>		
		4,499.50	
OPEN SPACES			
Village Maintenance	<u>1,710.55</u>		
		1,710.55	
SCC Grant			
IT Equipment	<u>2,059.00</u>		
		2,059.00	
VAT input tax		<u>646.49</u>	
			20,367.23
Balance at 31 March 2009			<u>45,244.40</u>
Current	27,497.47		
Village Newsletter	1,000.00		
Street Light Reserve	865.09		
Election Reserve	249.69		
Youth Shelter	2,000.00		
Local Action Team	500.00		
Employment Contingency	500.00		
IT Project	12,632.15		

PURTON CHARITIES

SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE YEAR 2008

PURTON SCHOOL - CHARITY LAND

	<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
DIVIDEND ON			GREENSANDS TOWER
SHARES	12.19		HOT
			CONVEYING FEES 39.53
FIELD RENT			PURTON PRIMARY
A. & S. ABELL	263.00		SCHOOL LIBRARY 200.00
W. STONE	50.00		SUNDAY SCHOOL 200.00
INTEREST ACQUIRED			SUNSHINE PRE-
DEPOSIT A/C.	327.89		SCHOOL 100.00
	<u>653.08</u>		<u>539.53</u>
		CR. BALANCE	<u>113.55</u>

P. SKINNER

DIVIDEND ON			
SHARES	12.98	EDINBURGH	N/A.
INTEREST ACQUIRED			
DEPOSIT A/C.	<u>8.89</u>		
	<u>21.87</u>		<u>N/A.</u>
		CR. BALANCE	<u>21.87</u>

P. ROBERTS

