

Whiteshill & Ruscombe Parish Council Annual Report 2008/2009



Welcome to the Annual Report 2008/2009 on the activities of the Council. You will find details of how the Council spent its money in 2008/09 and how the Council funds this expenditure.

During the past year, Rob Walker resigned from the parish council and Louise Scott was co-opted onto the council in his place. Louise joined the Allotments Working Party.

The Parish Council consists of 9 part-time councillors who represent an electorate of approximately 1,000. Elections are held once in every four years, the next one will be in 2010. The councillors received no allowance during 2008/09.

The Council employs one part-time member of staff:

Mrs Julie Shirley – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Other contracted workers during 2008/09:

Roger Mills until Christmas then Steve Marshall – Village Maintenance
Roger Mills – Footpath Clearance
TW Hawkins – Playing Field Mowing

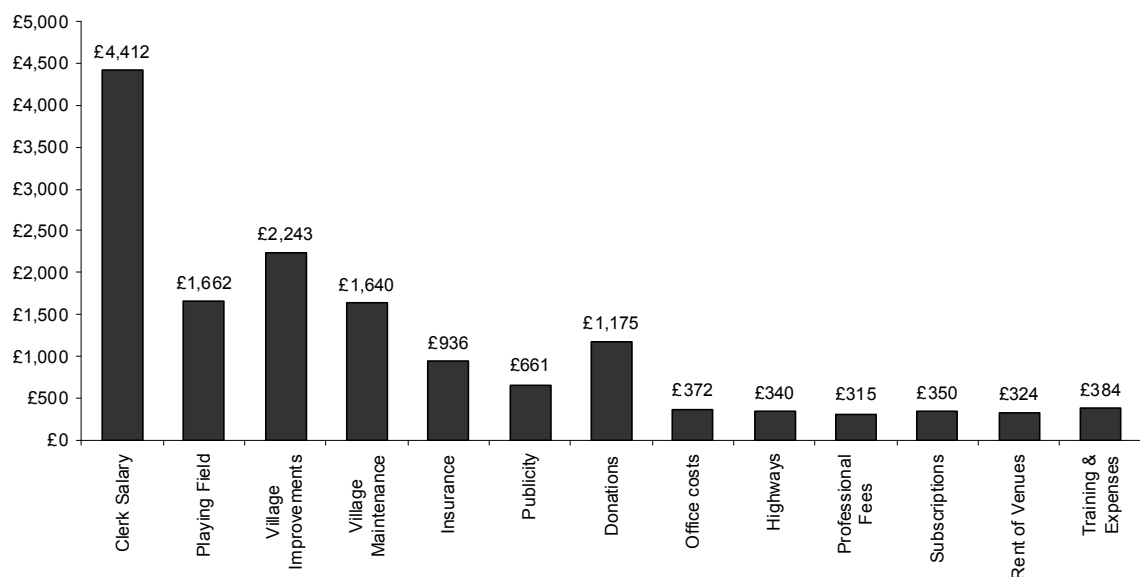
The Council meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at Whiteshill. Agendas are displayed on notice boards throughout Whiteshill and Ruscombe and further information can be found on our website: www.wrpc.org.uk

The public are welcome to attend these meetings and speak during the **10 minute public forum**.

Finance

The precept for 2008/09 was £13,000. The Parish Council was mindful of the current economic climate and has kept the precept at £13,000 for 2009/10 and decided to use parish council reserves to pay for village improvements in the coming year.

Expenditure by Category



Regular Commitments

The Parish Council has a number of responsibilities in Whiteshill and Ruscombe villages:

- Maintain the Village Green
- Maintain the Playing Field, Play Area, Hanley's Corner
- The War Memorial
- Notice Boards
- Bus Shelters
- Litter Bins and dog bins
- Insurance for all these areas

Donations for local groups

The Parish Council has a small donations budget and has been able to support other groups and initiatives during the year.

These include:

- Whiteshill Parochial Church Council
- Ruscombe & Whiteshill Village Shop
- Bread Street "Street Party"

Parish Newsletter – The WaRbler

The parish newsletter – The WaRbler, was launched spring 2007, and is delivered to every house in Whiteshill and Ruscombe. The WaRbler is also available on our website – www.wrpc.org.uk/newsletter.htm

Contributions from local residents are always welcome and can be emailed to the clerk or to the editor on editwarbler@aol.com

Planning

The Planning Committee meets two weeks after the full council meeting, at the village hall, to consider any planning applications received between full council meetings. The Council have considered 27 planning applications in the past year.

Public Rights of Way

The Public Rights of Way Committee meets two weeks after the full council meeting to consider any issues with public rights of way.

Traffic issues have continued to be a major concern during 2008/09, and the parish council has been campaigning for a “20 is plenty” scheme throughout the parish.

Playing Field

The playing field and play area continues to be well used. There has been limited vandalism this year with everyone enjoying the facilities on offer.

Whiteshill Youth Football Club has struggled this year but hopes to continue with the Parish Council's support and by recruiting new young players.

The play area has had its annual RoSPA inspection and no major risks were identified.

A Basketball hoop has been donated by Stratford Park Leisure Centre and is going to be installed on the playing field at the end of the Boules area. The old netball pig will be removed to enable this to take place

What the Parish Council plans to do in 2009/10

- Put up '20 is plenty' signs throughout the Parish
- A rolling replacement of grit bins
- Turn the red phone box at Ludlow Green into an information point.
- Replace old notice boards
- Site the basketball hoop

Message from the Outgoing Chair – Councillor Gerri Kimber

We have had a very active 12 months and hope that you can see the results of our activity around the village.

- Our major capital expenditure has been on the Ruscombe road railings which were in a poor state of neglect and repair. They have now been refurbished and repaired and their lifespan extended considerably.
- A new handrail has been put up at Zion Hill to the relief of the residents.
- We have replaced the drainage system/soak away on the playing field near the play area which has caused considerable problems in the past.
- Following a consultation exercise with Gloucestershire Highways we have spent a great deal of time trying to think of ways to control the speed of traffic through the village which are actually allowable by law. We are awaiting a final verdict on the wording of our '20 is plenty' campaign signs.
- We have investigated the cost of siting a basketball hoop in the playing field.
- We have decided to replace the grit bins in the parish with attractive wooden ones, to replace the mainly unsightly sawn-off plastic barrels, currently doing the job in many parts of the parish. A complete survey of the grit bins has been undertaken and the old ones will be replaced on a gradual basis.
- A few of the Parish Council notice boards are also in a poor state of repair. These have been identified and should be replaced in the next year.
- The council has decided to 'adopt' the BT phone box at Double Spout and turn it into a Parish information point.
- A logo competition was held and the Parish now has a new logo

Contact

PARISH CLERK

Mrs Julie Shirley, 60 Hawk Close, Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 4WE
Tel: 01452 424245 Email: clerk@wrpc.org.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Rogers (Chairman)
Rebecca Charley (Vice-Chair)
Gerri Kimber
Peter Hood
Louise Scott

John Mutton
Steve Tomkins
Michael Lakin
Greg Dance