

2012/13 Woolavington Annual Report

1) Pavilion/Sports Field

The Woolavington Playing Fields Association met on 4 occasions to deal with the day-to-day management of the pavilion, sports pitch and play areas. The Woolavington and Tigers Old Boys Football Club used the pitch for their home games during part of the 2012/13 season and the Somerset Rural Youth Project also regularly hired the pavilion for a music project. Income amounted to £366.00. The Association replaced a climbing frame at Sedgemoor Way and plan to replace a further piece of play equipment in the near future.

2) Woolavington Rural Activities Project

Christine Gale retired as Youth Development Worker in October 2012 and was replaced by Helen Baker. The Woolavington Rural Activities Project (WRAP) continued to manage the scheme and the Parish Council made a grant of £6,000 to support the work in 2012/13. Other grants were obtained to support project work.

3) Maintenance Issues

Mr M. Zobel continued to act as voluntary Footpath warden. A number of matters concerning the local rights of way network were taken up.

Repairs were carried out to the play equipment and safety surfacing. Various defective road surfaces, street lamps, signs, fly tipping, blocked drains, mud and dog fouling problems were reported. Work was carried out to a hedge in the sports field and the hedge alongside the village hall.

The old milk stage at Reeds Drive was restored in the summer of 2012 to preserve a part of the village's farming heritage and also to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Council recorded appreciation of the work of Bob Darch, Jonathan Pole and Paul Herbert in connection with this project.

4) Cemetery

9 burials took place during the year, 2 grave spaces were reserved and 7 memorials were erected. Income in fees amounted to £1,160. The Parish Council also arranged for grass cutting in the Churchyard on behalf of the District Council in return for grant aid. Work took place during 2012 to landscape the extension to the Cemetery and work is underway to extend the boundary wall along the Reeds Drive frontage.

5) Planning Applications

15 planning applications were considered during 2012/13. The Parish Council's recommendations were forwarded to the District Council. Various concerns regarding planning contraventions were also taken up with the planning officers.

The Parish Council set up a working group of Members which met with agents acting on behalf of a landowner to discuss possible community benefits which might arise from any development of land to the south of Woolavington.

In July, the Parish Council raised objection to an application for a new surgery and 60 houses off Crockers Hill as it was not in compliance with Core Strategy Policy P4 and because it was felt there was dissatisfaction within the community regarding the consultation. Due to the importance of retaining a doctor's surgery in Woolavington, the Working Group held discussions with the developers to explain the reasons for refusal on the grounds of non compliance with Policy P4. This resulted in the housing element being greatly reduced and the layout being redesigned to

reduce or eliminate several areas of concern, therefore making it compliant to Policy P4. Planning permission was granted on 25th March 2013 and work started two days later on 27th March 2013.

6) Big Local Lottery Funding

In November, it was announced that Woolavington and Puriton had been selected to jointly receive £1 million Big Local Funding, spread over a period of 10 years. The scheme would be resident lead and a series of events would be held in both villages with a view to forming a Steering Committee to take the process forward.

7) Garden Competitions

A Best Kept Garden Competition was again organised. The winner of the large garden section was Mrs E. Hopkins of 31 Lower Road. The winners of the senior citizens section were Mr & Mrs M.A. Haggett of 5 Elm Lane. The winners of the small garden section were Mr & Mrs K. Haggett of 3 Lockswell and the award for the best hanging basket went to Mrs M. Lang of 5 School Lane.

The various flower beds, containers and the planter under the village nameplate at the Causeway were planted with bedding plants and the Millennium Garden was maintained.

8) Citizen of the Year

The twentieth recipient of the Citizen of the Year Cup was Jim Mundell.

9) Allotments

28 of the allotments were let during 2012.

10) Village Hall

The Parish Council assisted the Village Hall Committee with grant aid towards the cost of their general running expenses. The Council also supported the Village Hall Committee with a further grant towards the cost of repairs to their flat roof.

11) Affordable Housing

The Parish Council held discussions with Sedgemoor Housing Association Ltd regarding the criteria for allocating the affordable housing at Higher Road, which is nearing completion.

12) Web-site

The Parish Council continued to develop and maintain a web-site with information about the work of the Council together with village news items and events.

13) General Power of Competence

The Parish Council was one of the first Councils in Somerset to meet the criteria to use the General Power of Competence in October 2012.

14) Representation at Meetings

The Parish Council have been represented at Meetings of the Polden Hills Parish Cluster Group, Partners and Communities Together (PACT), the Hinkley C Connection Project Community Forum, the Somerset Association of Local Councils and BAE Systems Community Liaison Meetings.