

SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER

AN UPDATE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
HANLEY CASTLE AND HANLEY SWAN

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council took place on May 19th. The minutes of this meeting will be published on the PC website as soon as they are available. At the meeting, the Annual Report was presented by our Chairman, Sue Roberts. That report is reproduced here.

During the past year or so the Parish Council has....

- Celebrated the Clerk's 25 years of service
- Completed the first year of the Lengthsman scheme
- Collected numerous donations towards the cost of the repair of the war memorial in Hanley Castle churchyard.
- Continued to pay for the mowing of the village greens, playing field etc.
- Consulted tree surgeons and engaged them to work on various trees
- Commented on 45 planning applications.
- Contributed to the work of the Hanley Villages Trust
- Co-operated with the Rural Housing Enabler by advertising his proposal to provide low cost housing in Hanley Swan.
- Co-ordinated the Parish Litter Collection Day on 19 March 2005.
- Contacted the Highways Partnership Unit about numerous highway maintenance matters
- Completed the repairs to the cider mill on the Ewe & Lamb Green.
- Considered the crime figures provided by the Local Beat Manager, PC Mark Taylor,
- Continued to welcome the District Councillors and County Councillor to its meetings.
- Contributed to the charitable work of Upton Community Care and Malvern Hills CAB
- Complied with all the requirements for Quality Parish Status
- Conserved the natural beauty of the area through the work of the Parish Path Wardens, the Tree Warden and the Environmental Pollution Monitor
- Challenged the Three Counties Agricultural Society to come up with solutions to the continuing problems of traffic to the showground largely travelling through the parish.
- Conducted ongoing repairs and maintenance on the play area following the RoSPA inspection.

And communicated all of the above to the residents of the parish via the website at www.hanleycastleparishcouncil.co.uk; regular contributions to the "Parish Link" and through the publication of the new newsletter.

Now for the detail.....

- **Celebrated the Clerk's 25 years of service and her success in compiling her portfolio and being awarded a distinction for the Certificate in Local Council Administration.**

Our Clerk, Ann Canham, is to be congratulated both on her many years of hard work for the people of Hanley Castle Parish and her excellent achievement in gaining her CiLCA with a distinction.

The PC continued its membership of the Worcestershire CALC and received much useful information from them both in the form of e-mails to the Clerk and through the Worcestershire MAIL publication which was distributed to all Councillors.

Ann has attended the Clerks' Gatherings, organised by CALC, and also received much help and advice from its Executive Officer, Pat Edwards, particularly in the preparation of her portfolio for the CiLCA, and the PC is most grateful to Pat for this assistance.

- **Completed the first year of the Lengthsman scheme having been one of the few parishes to pilot the scheme the previous year.**

Hanley Castle was one of the first parishes to sign up for the new scheme and was given a maximum of £2,000 to be spent on work such as siding out footways, clearing gullies and grips and solving minor highway drainage problems. Bob Kendrick and his mate Dave Boddison have done an excellent job all year and are to be congratulated on their hard work. They have worked in the Hol-

loway, by Blackmore corner, outside the primary school, on the footway past Oakmere and towards the Three Counties crossroads, in Gilberts End, at the Cross Hands; in short all over the parish.

- **Collected numerous donations towards the cost of the repair of the war memorial in Hanley Castle churchyard.**

Following consultation with the Royal British Legion and a quotation for the work required the Parish Council started to collect money towards the cost of the repairs. This fund now stands at £1451.41.

- **Continued to pay for the mowing of the village greens, playing field and the closed churchyard at St Mary's Church.**

Stoulton Home & Garden Services have once again been the Parish Council's contractors for this work at a cost of £144.00 for two cuts per month..

- **Consulted tree surgeons and engaged them to work on various trees with the Parish Council's responsibilities.**

Mark Eveleigh inspected the cedar tree in Hanley Castle and then completed works costing some £260.00 aimed at reducing the lean on one particular branch overhanging the roadway and generally tidying up the dead branches in the tree.

Adrian Hope has completed an inspection of the trees behind the pond in Hanley Swan and has been asked to undertake a variety of work to make the trees safe for a few more years. This work will cost £1240.00 plus £260.00 for some

additional, though less urgent, items as well. The trees are also subject to Tree Preservation Orders and an application has been made to MHDC for permission to proceed. The PC's Insurers require regular inspection and maintenance of the trees and it is hoped that these measures will ensure the safety of all residents and visitors whilst preserving the parish's leafy greens.

• **Commented on 45 planning applications.**

The Parish Council's Planning Committee has met 10 times during the year and returned their considered comments to MHDC.

Applications considered have included:

- i) works requiring LBC at various locations on the Severn End Estate including Merevale Farm, Gilberts End Farm and at Severn End itself where the PC attended a site meeting before commenting on the proposed conservatory.*
- ii) two applications concerning hedgerows where the PC requested that any loss of hedgerow be replaced by the planting of hedge nearby with a similar mix of species.*
- iii) an application to remove conditions on the use of buildings in Park Lane, currently used for the repair of mowers, and to which the PC objected.*
- iv) several similar applications for a side extension at Laurel Cottage to which the PC have consistently objected on the grounds that the proposals would destroy the symmetry of this delightfully proportioned village house.*

v) applications for industrial units at Blackmore Park Industrial Estate and associated traffic measures on Blackmore Park Road.

vi) a 16 pen boarding cattery at Little Merebrook Farm.

vii) two houses in the garden of Mayfield, Picken End, where the PC would have liked to have seen just a single dwelling.

viii) large extensions to 1 & 2 Rose Cottage, Picken End, to which the PC objected.

The Parish Council has also commented on the First and Second Deposit Drafts of the District Local Plan confirming their opinion that the settlement boundaries in Hanley Castle should remain unchanged and that only the minor adjustments to the settlement boundary in Hanley Swan, proposed by MHDC, should be allowed.

• **Contributed to the work of the Hanley Villages Trust by leading on three areas of the Action Plan.**

The Parish Council has responsibility for the Housing, Traffic and Travel and Environment Teams as the actions required are already covered by the PC's usual activities.

• **Co-operated with the Rural Housing Enabler by advertising his proposal to provide low cost housing in Hanley Swan.**

The Rural Housing Enabler, Alan Saunders, and Chris Knibbs from Bromford Housing Group attended

the March meeting of the Parish Council and brought details of their initial proposals for some ten low cost houses on land between Westmere and St Gabriel's Primary School. They had identified a housing need within the parish and consulted the Planning Department at MHDC on the suitability of the site. The next move would be an exhibition to be held in the village hall on Wednesday 25 May 2005 at which members of the public could comment on the proposals and register their interest in the houses if the scheme went ahead.

- **Co-ordinated the Parish Litter Collection Day on 19 March 2005.**

As usual this annual event took place the week before Easter and many of the "regulars" turned out to give the villages a spring clean.

- **Contacted the Highways Partnership Unit about numerous highway maintenance matters requiring their attention.**

The Parish Council and particularly the Clerk maintained their excellent relationship with the officers at the HPU and kept them well informed about items including the seemingly ever present pot holes in Church End and Bowling Green; the headwalls at the pond which they hope to repair when the water level in the pond subsides during the summer; the subsidence causing part of the footway to be rather close to the pond; the proliferation of marker posts outside The Chestnuts, Gilberts End, following drainage works there in the autumn.

- **Completed the repairs to the cider mill on the Ewe & Lamb Green.**

Pete Murrin has repaired the woodwork and made the whole thing safe in case some of our younger residents choose to use the cider mill as a climbing frame. The residents close to the Ewe & Lamb Green have also been concerned about the heavy use of the green by young footballers and cyclists and the deterioration of the boundary wall between the green and The Walnuts.

- **Considered the crime figures provided by the Local Beat Manager, PC Mark Taylor, at his regular visits to PC meetings.**

Mark is to be thanked for coming to PC meetings twice a year (especially as we are one of 18 parishes in his patch). He reported figures for 2004 as follows:-

<i>Burglaries (dwellings)</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Burglaries (non-dwellings)</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Criminal damage</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>General theft</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Theft from motor vehicles</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Theft of motor vehicles</i>	<i>4</i>

- **Continued to welcome the District Councillors and County Councillor to their meetings.**

The PC are very pleased to welcome Sue, Mary & Tom to their meetings and thank them for their informative reports and for all the work they undertake on behalf of the parish and its residents.

- **Contributed to the charitable work of Upton Community Care and Malvern Hills District Citizens Advice Bureau.**

As usual the PC made donations of £100 each to UCC and MHD CAB as both

organisations are available to help residents of the parish.

- **Complied with all the requirements for Quality Parish Status enabling an early application to the Accreditation Panel.**

The requirements are that a PC

- i) has a CiLCA qualified Clerk*
- ii) has adopted a local Code of Conduct*
- iii) holds at least six Council meetings a year*
- iv) publishes an Annual Report*
- v) provides regular information to residents on Parish Council activities*
- vi) produces properly prepared and audited accounts*
- vii) has had at least 80% of seats filled by members elected at the last election*

Hanley Castle PC hopes that it has now met all these and can provide the necessary documentation for the Accreditation Panel.

- **Conserved the natural beauty of the area through the work of the PPWs, TW and EPM whose continuing dedication to their parish is to be commenced.**

The PC's work is greatly enhanced by its volunteer wardens who do a tremendous job looking after the footpaths, trees and general environment of the parish. Marjorie, Michael, David and Margaret are indeed to be commended for their hard work and thanked once again for their efforts.

- **Challenged the Three Counties Agricultural Society to come up with solutions to the problems of traffic**

to the showground largely travelling through the parish.

This has, of course, been a long running problem and the great efforts of Tony Addison, Sue Adeney and Tom Wells seem at last to have had an effect. The PC were delighted to welcome Nick Vincent, Executive Director of the TCAS, to the March meeting and even more delighted to hear of his proposals to help alleviate some of the problems associated with the traffic to the showground. It was agreed to monitor the situation over the summer and to invite Mr Vincent to the September meeting to see if his ideas had indeed produced some positive results.

- **Conducted ongoing repairs and maintenance on the play area following the RoSPA inspection.**

The PC are very grateful once again to Ian Thompson who has put his wood-working skills to great use, keeping the play area up to scratch and available for enjoyment of all the younger members of the community.

And

- **Communicated all of the above to the residents of the parish via the web site at www.hanleycastleparishcouncil.co.uk, regular contributions to the "Parish Link" and through the publication of the newsletter.**

The challenges which lie ahead in the coming year are:

- to continue to build on the achievements of 2004/2005.

and to

- complete the tree works required
- continue to improve the facilities in the play area
- consider the proposals for low cost housing balancing the views of those in housing need with the impact on the wider community
- conclude the quest for *Quality Parish Status*
- continue to liaise with the Head and Governors at Hanley Castle High School in the hope that the school cars parked in the village during the school day can indeed be accommodated within the school grounds
- consider the effectiveness of Nick Vincent's measures regarding traffic to the Three Counties Showground after a summer of events there

*Sue Roberts
(Chairman)*

10 May 2005

THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE



Our website presents far more information than can ever be printed in a newsletter. On it, you will find all the minutes of committee meetings, planning decisions, information regarding businesses resident in the parish, news, links to other sites, information about recycling facilities and much, much more.

We are very keen to expand this site and to make it a valuable source of data for our residents. However, it is run by volunteers at no cost to the Parish and consequently would benefit from additional effort. If you would be prepared to lend a hand in providing content and timely updates, we would be glad to hear from you. Experience is not necessary (we'll help you with the technical stuff!), but a PC, an internet connection and boundless enthusiasm are all essential! We have plenty of ideas — we need help in getting them put onto the site.

Contact the editor:
irt@cygnetlodge.co.uk
or phone 310716

Other things of note....

The Oak Tree

Villagers will have seen the branches that have fallen out of the oak tree on the green at Hanley Swan. This happened in two stages: sometime over the night of the 7th. of May the first branch fell onto the green narrowly missing the iron seat around the tree; the second fell a week or so later at 7:30 in the evening and demolished the park bench sited some distance away from the trunk. Fortunately, no-one was in the vicinity when either branch fell. The Parish Council has requested a full inspection of the damage by a tree surgeon and his report is awaited—this is the reason for the branches having been left there until now. The area has been roped off pending the tree surgeon's report. Early speculation is that the tree may have been struck by lightning recently, which weakened the two branches. We really do hope that this (or something similarly 'benign') is found to be the reason for the damage, because anything more structural or endemic might mean that we lose our tree.

Calor Village of the Year Competition

Hanley Swan has been short-listed in the Calor Village of the Year competition. Our submission for this award was compiled by our Chairman and amounted to some 20 pages of detail relating to life in our village. The judges are to visit us on the 27th. June and the results will be announced shortly thereafter.

Newsletter Production & Distribution

The Parish Council is very grateful for the assistance of the committee of the Parish Link in the production and distribution of this newsletter. "The Parish Link" is delivered to the large majority of homes in our Parish and this co-operation serves to reduce the extra costs that the Parish Council would otherwise bear in the creation and delivery of this newsletter. For those who do not subscribe the 'The Parish Link', additional copies of the newsletter will be made available, free, in various village locations and as a file for download on our website at www.hanleycastleparishcouncil.co.uk. What you think about it; the work done by the council; or anything else related to the management of our villages is very important to the council. Please let us know — the editor's contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Hanley Castle Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November at Hanley Swan Village Hall: meetings start (usually) at 7:30 pm. All members of the public are welcome at these meetings, though they will be allowed to address the council only before and after the meeting unless otherwise invited by the Chairman.

Our Council comprises:	Telephone
Sue Roberts (Chairman)	592686
Tony Atkinson	310408
Anne Ballinger	592812
Ann Davies	310861
Francis Harcombe	310740
Margaret Norris	310786
John Taverner	310460
Ian Thompson	310716
Associated officers:	
Ann Canham (Clerk)	310366
Marjorie & Michael Nelson (footpaths)	310302
David Cheale (Tree Warden)	310233
Sue Adeny (MHDC Councillor)	310440

Comments and contributions from parish residents are welcomed on any subject to do with our community. The Parish Council is very conscious of the cost of producing and distributing this newsletter and the methods of so doing will be under constant review. If you would be prepared to receive it in electronic form either by email or by downloading it from our website, please let us know—this will help us to keep production costs to a minimum.

The information contained in this newsletter is edited by Ian Thompson
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