

Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council

H. A. R. P.

Annual Report & Newsletter - July 2020

Issue No. 31, July 2020

Chairman's Report 2019 / 2020

Here we are again, another year over. It has been an honour and privilege to represent the residents of Hollinswood and Randlay in the year just gone. What a busy year we have had and this is, in the main, thanks to the communities of Hollinswood & Randlay for working with the Parish Council.

The year started with the Borough and Parish elections, as a parish council we didn't need to hold an election but we did welcome a new member Cllr Vanessa Holt, who is also one of our Ward Members for The Nedge along with Nathan England and Chris Turley. The council also co-opted two new members to fill our vacancies - Elisabeth Dalby and Tom Wust.

Our calendar was full with many events taking place throughout the year, our Annual Fun Day, we also held a SNAC@HARP Activity Day this was a first for us - an activity day for all abilities and recognising special needs and disabled adults and children. Over 100 young people with family and friends attended and enjoyed a range of activities with music and dance. We launched the 'Best garden and allotment competitions' - hopefully these will be ongoing competitions.

Our Remembrance Day Service and Parade were very well attended. It was a very moving experience. We welcomed representatives from the armed forces, the police, Telford Rotary, Telford Hornets and both our local primary schools. Our Christmas events, the two fayres and lights switch events on at both centres were most enjoyable and this year, due to popular demand, we had to hold two Christmas lunches at The Holiday Inn for our senior citizens.

We hold 'Meet your Councillor' days once every two months on the third Saturday and are now able to have councillors at both centres to talk to residents. We also have coffee mornings which are held on 1st Monday of the month at Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre (with craft sessions) and at Randlay on the 3rd Monday.

This year, for the Chairman's Charity, I decided I wanted to raise money to enable us to purchase two defibrillators and cabinets for our Primary Schools. I am very pleased to announce that we raised an amazing £2000, thanks to all who helped us raise this. The defibrillators and cabinets have now been installed in both primary schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for working so hard for our community, many of them give up evenings and weekends and I totally understand that we all have other lives away for the Parish Council, like families and work commitments, but you are always willing to come along and give your input and time. Thank you again, this is appreciated.

I also want to thank all our Parish Staff who always give 150% - no task is too big or small for them and they always have a smile and have time for a friendly chat with councillors but especially with our residents. Thank you for all the hours you work extra, especially when doing those thankless tasks.

My biggest thanks go to Katrina, our Parish Clerk. We are always proud of the work of the Parish Council, how we support and represent our residents and how successful our events turn out to be. Much of this is with thanks to Katrina, who seems to make everything run smoothly, and keeps us in check, when needed.

We have been able to achieve so much more by working together with local groups and organisations and liaising closely with the residents. Our success is due, in no small part, to this amazing working relationship.

What a different end to the year than what we were all expecting. Our community centres had to close on the 23rd March due to Covid 19 and at the present time we don't know when Hollinswood & Randlay will be allowed to reopen. We have been able to allow the use of the Pavilion Building for special needs activities and respite care, as part of our SNAC project.

It was with a heavy heart that we had to cancel all of our St Georges Day events and this year the Parish had organised a V E Day Street Party and display of memorabilia which we were all looking forward to, we were planning to dress up in 1940's clothes and make a day to remember, as we honour and thank everyone involved. I hope, like me, you decorated your house and enjoyed a party at home.

Fun day 2020 has been cancelled but we do intend to hold other events as soon as it is safe to do so.

I would like to thank and praise Telford and Wrekin Council for its response to the pandemic, keeping us informed and updated every day. These regular updates and further information have been very useful, especially as we have formed a Community Support Group. Councillors and Staff are regularly fetching shopping and prescriptions for local residents. We have also offered a dog-walking service.

Please continue to stay safe, follow the government guidelines and I look forward to the time that we will all be able to meet up again - hopefully soon.

Councillor Sheenagh Unwin



Finance and Audit Committee 2019 – 2020

It is my pleasure, as Finance and Audit Chairman, to present this short report of the activities of the committee this year

As the name suggests, the committee is responsible for making sure that the council has the appropriate finances and controls in place to ensure that the council is capable of carrying out its statutory duties sustainably.

It is the committee's duty to check that the activities undertaken are carried out in a safe manner, with an eye on value for money and with adequate checks and balances in place to ensure that the funds held by the council are administered competently and honestly.

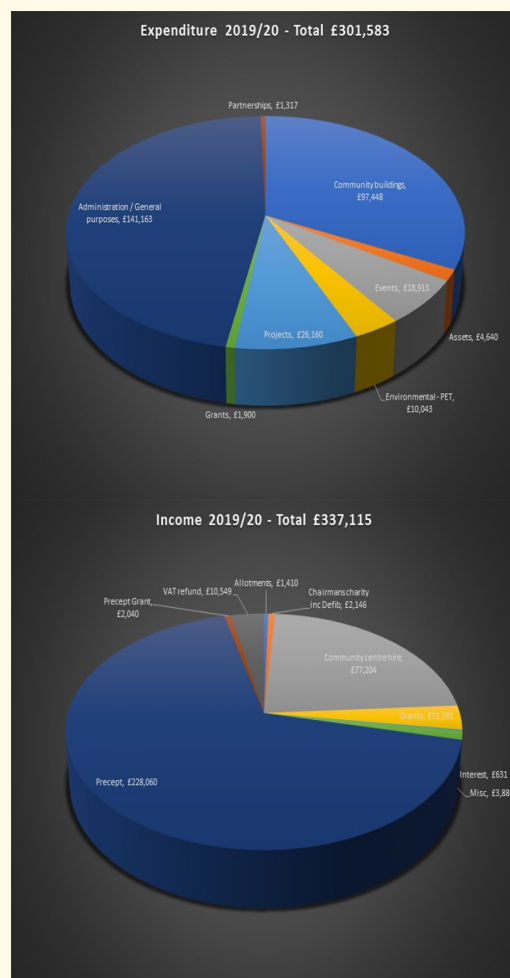
We carry out internal audits to monitor our own health and safety and financial systems and procedures. Our systems and finances are also externally audited. I am pleased to report that we have had no major issues in finance control identified in these audits

We work as a committee to recommend an annual budget to the council that allows us to achieve the council's aims and objectives, whilst reducing waste and is not excessive. The council has put in place a 3 to 5 year strategy which enables clearer financial planning.

Our health and safety controls include regular, at least annual, reviews of risk assessments to ensure that we stay up to date with new legislation, can respond to changes in our centres and minimise risk to our employees, hirers and the wider community.

Our systems are regularly audited and recommendations for improvements made. The committee then ensures that those improvements are made.

The last two months of the financial year and the start of this year have been challenging as we have lost income from hall hire and have had, and will continue, to support the more vulnerable in our community. We believe that we have provided sufficient reserves previously to be able to cope with this increased strain in a sustainable manner. I must thank our Clerk and team for the efforts they have made in this difficult time to allow this to be the case.



Personnel Committee

I have been elected as Chairman of the Personnel Committee. This Committee meets throughout the year to ensure that the Parish Council is acting legally and within its powers in relation to our Staff and Volunteers.

We have a range of policies available to support the role of the Committee and also to offer adequate and appropriate support to our staff and volunteers. These can be found on our website.

Our Team has six members, all part time and we have recently recruited an apprentice to support the Landscape Management Team. Our LMT can be seen around the Parish in our van and will be pleased to help undertake local tasks in support of the grounds maintenance contract provided by Telford & Wrekin Council.

The team is kept busy with a wide range of duties and tasks and they are looking forward to being able to open up the community buildings again, when we receive the authorisation following the recent pandemic.



Events Committee

I am proud to be the Chair of the Events Committee with so much happening at the start of the year, but we wouldn't be able to do it without the support of you amazing people, the communities of Hollinswood and Randlay. I hope you feel that there has been something for everyone.

Back in 2019, it seems a long way back, we had several successful events thanks to the residents and our visitors. In April we held the annual St George's Day Traditional Bingo event with fish and chip supper, which was once again well attended. Also we held the St George's Celebration with the dragon being defeated by eager knights, aka children from our two primary schools. We combined this with May Day having the May Pole to dance around. Later in the year, in July, we had Fun Day on the Pavilion Field with all sorts of activities and stalls. The parade grew with the help of some impressive vehicles. A few weeks later, the SNAC Activity Day was held with a focus on accessible activities for anyone of any age and welcoming friends with special needs.

For Armistice Day, in November, we hosted a service at The Memorial in Telford Town Park, the public turned out in their hundreds and we were joined by Wolverhampton Brass Band, our Primary School Choirs, KSLI, uniformed officers and brownies.

In late November we held the first of the Christmas Fayres with an appearance from Father Christmas who also attended the second fayre in December. At both we had special guests to turn on the lights that adorn both Hollinswood and Randlay centres. In between, we held a Christmas Carol Service where there was singing and celebrating with traditional carols and readings.

Also, due to popular demand, there was not one, but two, Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch events.

The next event along was going to be St George's Day in April 2020 but we had to cancel this due to Covid-19. We had to take the very difficult decision to cancel other events in 2020/21, but we are now considering recorded services and events for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas, so that we can commemorate these important occasions, whilst responding to the social distancing guidelines.

It has been a year of ups and downs. As a council we are already planning for next year, when, hopefully, our events can resume and we will look forward to seeing you all again with hope that we can bring the fun back with more events than we have been able

Report of The New Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley

Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley (FoHRV) has been in existence since January 2010 with a view to redressing its neglect. Much has been achieved over the years, thanks to a variety of volunteers, co-operation with organisations and external agencies along with Telford & Wrekin Council whose involvement will finally declare Randlay Valley as a Local Nature Reserve in due course.

Subject the period 2019 to 2020 much work and improvements had been planned along with support and initiatives from external organisations but this has been put on hold due to the current COVID19 issues. That said volunteers have been working whenever possible under safe-distance rules to maintain, as best they can, the environs of Randlay Valley.

It has been noticed that the Valley during 'lockdown' has become a favourite location for local residents and visitors – the Friends hope this may continue as Randlay Valley is a wonderful asset in our Parish for Telford and beyond.

Chris Turley, Chairman - FoHRV



Elections 2019

The local elections in May 2019 saw most of our Councillors return for a new term of office. At the Annual General Meeting, Councillor Sheenagh Unwin was re-elected as Chairman and Councillor Harvey Unwin as Vice Chairman. Thanks were recorded to Chris Prescott and Peter Roberts who had not stood for re-election. The Parish Council would like to thank them for all their support to the community over the last few years as Councillors and to wish them all the best for the future.

Councillor Vanessa Holt was welcomed as a Parish Councillor and she had also been successfully elected as one of the three Ward Members, with Councillors Chris Turley and Nathan England.

Chairman's Charity

The charity had raised £2169.22 during 2018/19 and this had purchased defibrillators and cabinets for our three community buildings. The Chairman announced that her charity for 2019/20 would raise funds to provide defibrillators for Hollinswood and Randlay Primary Schools. The total raised this year has been £2146.02 so both our schools have defibrillators available for children, adults and visitors. Our fund-raising was cut short by the lock-down, but we have a balance of £288.02 which will be forwarded to start off our fund-raising for 2020/21.

Committee Structure

We have five main committees, each looking after an area of our work: Personnel, Asset & Property, Events, Youth Provision Partnership and Finance & Audit. Members also represent the Parish Council on outside bodies, including Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley, Association of Councils, TW Bus User Group, CPRE and the TW Climate Change Partnership.

Climate Change Partnership

Telford & Wrekin Council has made a commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, with the aspiration for the Borough to be carbon neutral by 2030. TWC is seeking to lead by example by reducing its own carbon emissions and using the planning and regulatory powers local government has to shape and influence action on climate change in Telford & Wrekin. As a result, Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council has agreed to become part of the campaign and signed up to Telford & Wrekin

Wednesday Wizards



First I sincerely hope you are all keeping well, and staying safe!

I would like to start by saying thank you, again, for all the support that Member and the Clerk are giving me to manage Wednesday Wizards. Within that, I would like to say a special thankyou to Cllr Leigh Ricketts who has been a great help during the week, when he has been able to volunteer on a Wednesday. 2019 to 2020 has been a different year for Wizards, as I know it has for all groups. Before the lockdown we had 35/40 children registered, and on any one Wednesday we could have around about 25 to 28 young people in attendance.

We like to do many different things with them, for example play games, make and fly paper air planes and let them share experiences with first aid and cookery sessions. It has been a real pleasure to work with the young people from Hollinswood and I am looking forward to when we can re-open and I can see them all again.

Thank you all again, **Glyn Johnson** - Wednesday Wizards Leader

Asset and Property Committee 2019 – 2020

The Asset & Property Committee is responsible for ensuring that the council has the buildings, tools and equipment to carry out its agreed plan to support and serve the Parish of Hollinswood and Randlay. We are a small council so every penny we spend on assets must represent value for money.

In our Parish, it means making sure that the 3 community buildings, Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, Randlay Community Centre and the Hollinswood Pavilion are kept in a condition that means that they are suitable and available for safe use by the various community groups and individuals who wish to hire them. We aim to set hire rates so that the buildings are run at as close to break even as we can. However, we also provide subsidised fees for charitable and socially beneficial organisations within the policies of the council.

As well as the buildings, the most visible of our assets, we lease, manage, and maintain the Randlay allotments for use by residents of the Parish.

On the same basis we manage and maintain Hollinswood Pavilion field, and the Randlay Valley car park which is used by the Telford International Centre for 25 days a year and by Telford & Wrekin Council, but remains in our management and we can therefore use it for events such as Fun Day.

In the last year, we have taken a long term lease on 'The Muddy'. This is a new undertaking for us and we have plans in place to improve the drainage, upgrade the facilities and enhance the area to generally improve it for use by the local residents and community.

You may have noticed that we have also taken possession of a parish van (at a very low cost!) to enable our team to better maintain the environment. I would like to thank our Landscape Management Team for the impressive efforts in the last year.

We continually maintain and upgrade the condition of our centres – fitting new security systems, blinds, improving the sound system, and re-decorating when needed.

At the Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, we have brought our upper rooms back into use thus offering another area for use by the community for arts and crafts, training or meetings. We have also replaced windows and redecorated. We are planning improvements to the secondary entrance to make it a more suitable for access.

At the pavilion, with the support of Telford and Wrekin Council, we have completed a major regeneration in order to create our Special Needs Activity Centre (SNAC@HARP). We are very proud to be able to offer this special facility for children and adults, with special needs and to offer bespoke support to many families from our Parish and further afield. May I take this opportunity to thank the companies that have supported this project, with donations and sponsorship, and the volunteers who work with us to offer such special support and friendship.

We have also taken the opportunity to improve the entrance to the pavilion and added an alarm system and cameras, making it more welcoming and secure.

At the allotments, on top of the work carried out by our Landscape Management Team, in cooperation with the tenants, we are in the process of improving drainage and ensuring that all allotments are kept in the optimal condition.

The end of the Parish Council year comes in April. This year, in March, we had to close our centres as part of the government mandated response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is our intention to reopen the centres when it is appropriate to do so and in line with government guidelines. Plans are being drawn up to ensure that any further opening will be carried out in a manner that complies with social distancing guidance and helps to keep our users and members of the wider public safe. We hope to see



HOLLINSWOOD & RANDLAY PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING SCHEDULE

2020/21

DATE	MEETING	TIME	VENUE
20 th July 2020	Full Council	7.30pm	Via Zoom
21 st September 2020	Full Council	7.30pm	Zoom (to be agreed)
19 th October 2020	Full Council	7.30pm	To be agreed
16 th November 2020	Full Council	7.30pm	To be agreed
21 st December 2020	Full Council	7.30pm	To be agreed

Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Youth Provision Partnership

I would like to bring to your attention the work of the Youth Provision Partnership here at Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council. Our Council is keen to work with a range of partners to raise awareness and provide facilities and support for the young people. By young people, I mean all ages, from Mums to be, pre-school and school children to NEETs and teenagers and of all abilities.

You may already be aware of groups that use our community buildings, scout and guide groups, pre-school and after-school groups and also our own Wednesday Wizards.

With the help of partners, such as Telford & Wrekin Council, TCAT, University of Wolverhampton and including support and training providers such as Landau, we can make a real difference and here in our own Parish we are working towards new projects and offering training and life experiences.

Unfortunately, our plans were curtailed with the arrival of the lock-down, but this has enabled us to continue with our plans for fund-raising and to enhance our business plan and strategy.

Another piece of our work is the unique Special Needs Activity Centre that we are creating, with the help of Telford & Wrekin Council and working with other support groups such as PODS, Little Rascals and Shining Stars. The Pavilion at Hollinswood has been transformed and is now the home of a range of activities for children and adults, with a wide range of special needs and disabilities. We are working with Southwood Hub and Mark Taylor Support and we will welcome all other groups and providers as we really do believe that we can provide education, experiences and fun for local families. This experience will bring together existing groups such as Scouts and our children's groups and enhance the quality of life for many local people.

As Chairman, I am already proud of our achievements and we have amazing plans for the coming months and years. If you would like to be involved in any way, please do contact the Parish Council.

Councillor Leigh Ricketts, Chairman



Thank you for supporting your local shops.

During the last few months our local centres have become an even greater vital part of our Parish. During the full lock down for the vast majority of the time, both local stores remained open, as did the pharmacy and fish and chip shops. Both hair dressing salons were forced to close for the duration of the lock down, as was the pub at Randlay but it is very pleasing to see all recently reopening.

The number of people using and supporting these essential facilities has been good to see, with many people offering support to others by delivering necessary items to vulnerable and shielding neighbours.

Moving forward, we do hope the use of these shops will continue to grow and ensure the on going hive of activity within our local communities.

BEST KEPT GARDEN AWARD

During this difficult period, it has been lovely to see people working hard on their front gardens.

For the second year, Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Councillors would like to receive nominations for our

Best Kept Garden Competitions.

If you know of a front garden in our Parish worthy of nomination please contact the Parish Council

on how to nominate by: -

Enquiries@harpc.org.uk

01952 567961

Closing date: - 21st August 2020



Member & Address	Contact Numbers	E-mail address
Creed J Cllr	MOBILE 07957 514609	creed.harpc@gmail.com
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Holt V Cllr	MOBILE 07583 052426	vanessa.harpc@gmail.com
Johnson J Cllr	MOBILE 07942 752201	julie.harpc@gmail.com
Ricketts L Cllr	MOBILE 07860 781098	rickettsleigh@gmail.com
Sinclair G Cllr	MOBILE 07876 537909	hrpc@gregsinclair.co.uk
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Baker Katrina - Clerk	MOBILE 07813 788094	katrina.baker@harpc.org.uk

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email: enquiries@harpc.org.uk
Offices open between 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU

Over a number of years, your Parish Council has provided newsletters throughout the year, with current information, advertising our events and keeping you informed about where you live. As you know, we have delivered these to every house.

We have been asked to consider providing electronic copies of our newsletters, with additional printed copies available in our Community Buildings, local shops, schools, doctors and at Telford Library.

Our newsletters will still appear on our website (www.harpc.org.uk), but also, you can add your details to an electronic address book. This means you will receive our newsletter, and other important information, direct into your inbox. If you would like to sign up for this personal service, please can you send an email to

enquiries@harpc.org.uk

(subject PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS).

If you do not use, or have access to use, an email system, you can also sign up to receive a copy delivered to your house. If you would prefer to do this, please can you telephone 01952 567961 and let us have your postal address.

