



Your New Clerk

A sub-committee was appointed to interview 4 candidates who applied for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. The sub-committee then drew up a short list of 2 to meet the full Council and, at a special meeting on 27th June, it was decided that Mrs. Liz Harrington-Jones be appointed the Council's Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. She will take up her duties in September but in the meantime will work with Councillor Bob Jenkins who has been acting as Clerk since March.



In our Spring Newsletter you were urged to put your name forward for election to the Parish Council on 3rd May. Six members of the old Council plus six new faces from within the Parish were nominated; making 12 candidates for 10 places. This gave voters some choice of who they wished to run the Parish of Berkswich. Malcolm Hurst from the old Council was not re-elected and Mrs Katharine Shubinski, one of the new candidates, only missed out by one vote.

Unfortunately there were no new faces from Milford. The new members, Sue Francis, Roy Bennett, Bob Morton,

Bert Martin and Jim Remon took their seats at the Annual Meeting on 9th May when Ian Bearne was elected Chairman and Beryl Holt Vice Chairman. John Francis, Mary Grayson and Bob Jenkins make up the rest of the Council.

There was an excellent turn out of voters at the election but when it came to the count of the Parish Council votes (on the Yellow paper) it was found that many electors had not registered any votes at all. Perhaps this was because many people are unsure as to what a Parish Council does. We hope, via these regular newsletters, to put that right and inform

Your new Council

you what is happening in the Parish and how you can get involved.

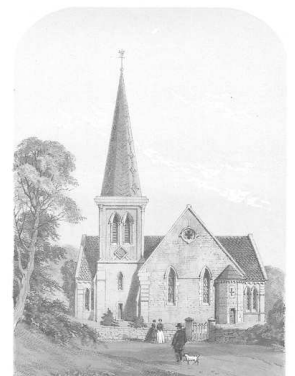
If you are aware of any problems in either Walton or Milford do not hesitate to contact one of your Councillors.

Telephone Numbers

- Ian Bearne – 614752
- Beryl Holt—665834
- Roy Bennett—661055
- John Francis—665490
- Sue Francis—665490
- Mary Grayson—661959
- Bob Jenkins—662408
- Bert Martin—660651
- Bob Morton—664613
- Jim Remon—664820

Best Kept Village Competition

Lynne Sandy and her band of helpers have worked very hard keeping the Village of Walton tidy for the competition. Many residents responded to her appeal and trimmed their hedges and lawns and swept the road in front of their own properties. Others have helped by picking up litter whenever they saw it on their walks through the area. The Judges visited us once in May and once in June; if they come back in July we are in with a chance. The results will be announced at Weston village Hall on Tuesday 31st July. Please keep up the good work.



Neighbourhood Watch

There have been a number of burglaries in Bluebell Hollow and the surrounding area which have highlighted the need to re-vamp our Neighbourhood Watch scheme and extend it into new areas. The demands are not onerous but require us to look after each other's property and take note of strangers and unfamiliar vehicles in the area.

What is required is a co-ordinator for each street or block of houses to liaise with the Police. They will be kept up to date with current incidents in the area so that they can warn their neighbours.

To get things moving again the Parish Council will shortly host a meeting for all residents in the Village Hall when they can meet the Police and the Neighbourhood watch organisers

Kissing Gates

Three new gates have been erected on Footpath No 10, leading from Walton to Jacob's Ladder, as far as the boundary with Brocton Parish. The Council has received very favourable reports from walkers of this popular path. Thanks have been sent to Mr Richard Haszard of Milford Hall who provided the labour for the installation.

It is hoped to erect more gates to replace styles in the near future.

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Berkswich Parish
Council Acting Clerk
662408

Stafford Borough Council
01785 19000

Staffordshire
County Council
01785 223121

Baswich Library
01785 663355

Berkswich Primary School
01785 354600

Walton High
School
01785 356300

CHURCH FETE

The Parish Council once again gave its support to the Parish Church Fete on Milford Cricket Ground on Saturday 16th June, 2007. This year there was a picture quiz of features and buildings in the Ecclesiastical Parish organised by Kevin Kelly. The stand attracted a number of visitors and some paid £1 to test their powers of observation. Prizes were awarded to the three with the most correct answers:-

1st Mr and Mrs Setterfield

2nd Eleanor Boucher,

3rd Marise Plater.

One of the new Councilors, Jim Remon exhibited some of his paintings to add interest to the stand.

Berkswich Parish Council

Berkswich History Society

Berkswich WI

Chaseside Flower Club

Creative Embroidery Group

Stafford Folk Dance Club
Grow
Walton Music Circle

To Book Walton Village Hall
for an event contact
Mr Bob Jenkins
662408

COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER.

The Parish Plan published in 2005 revealed that a large percentage of residents desired a greater visible Police presence in the Parish. With this in mind the Parish Council negotiated with Staffordshire Police to have one of the first Police Community Support Officers. The Parish would meet the cost of this officer. However, the scheme was considerably enlarged and changes were made in the funding arrangements by the Home Office. The final contract, which runs to March 2008 was for no cost in the first year, 25% cost in the second year, and 50% cost in the third and final year. The full cost of a PCSO is in the region of £25,000 per year but could increase if they work later in the evening.

The Council will soon have to think about its budget for next year and will have to consider whether we wish to enter into a new contract. If you have any views regarding the employment of a PCSO, you should advise the Parish Council as soon as possible.

Our first PCSO, Meghan Ferneyhough, is now a regular Police Officer. She has been replaced by Peter Davies who can often be seen in the area on foot or on his bicycle complete with yellow jacket. He also covers Weeping Cross and Wildwood in conjunction with the Community Police Officer, Carolyn Higgins.

